

Video Follow-Up: Ten Questions

1. Why do you think the framers valued freedom of speech?
2. What constitutes “speech”?
3. Why are all forms of expression important in a democracy?
4. Why do you think there are limits to free speech? In your opinion, should there be? Why?
5. Why do you think it’s so hard to define what speech is protected and what is not?
6. Cite the fundamental principle that is the starting point for all judicial decisions related to free speech.
7. List factors brought up by the justices in the video as ones that could matter when resolving free speech disputes.
8. The Constitution does not define free speech. What did Justice Breyer mean when he said, “So, that’s left up to the people to work out”? Explain how people help define freedom of speech when decisions are made by the court.
9. What did you learn from the justices about the process for deciding free speech matters?
10. According to Justice Breyer, what is “the worst thing you can do by way of abridgment”?