Freedom of Speech

Quotations

"If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter".

- George Washington

"It seems that the right of freedom of speech that was enshrined in numerous constitutions is now under attack by religious institutions".

- Salman Rushdie

Questions

• How would you define freedom of speech?
• Does freedom of speech strengthen or weaken a nation? Does it improve a society's dialogue or create hurt feelings and hatred?
• In many countries, there is no freedom of speech and censorship of the Internet. People are arrested or just disappear. Do you believe these procedures to limit freedom of speech are acceptable? Why or why not?
• Does the Internet, the opportunity to blog and state your opinion offer more opportunities for the possibilities of totally free speech and freedom of expression?
• Should freedom of speech stop at defamation of character and spreading false rumours?
• Should children be allowed the freedom of speech?
• Should people, in general, be careful what they say?
• Should teachers be allowed freedom of speech in their classrooms?
• English author Evelyn Beatrice Hall said, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Can you explain what she meant and do you agree?
• Are there things you'd like to say or thoughts you have that you keep to yourself for fear of having people label you?

Presentation

Create a presentation outlining the different aspects of Freedom of Speech, what do you believe are the limits, if any?