

Assignment for Freedom Fighters Assemble Episode 2

New Voices: Is your state protected?

Learning objectives:

The class will hear moderator **Cathy Kuhlmeier** talk with two people who have had experience getting [New Voices](#) passed in their states and elsewhere. This legislation, already in 18 states, restores student speech to what it was under the 1969 Tinker standard: protected unless it is libelous, invades privacy or creates a clear and present danger of a substantial disruption. **Steve Listopad**, visiting lecturer of journalism at the University of Central Arkansas, was instrumental in getting [the first so-named New Voices legislation](#) passed when he taught journalism and directed student media at Jamestown College in North Dakota. He has helped others get the legislation passed elsewhere. **Kellen Hoard**, an activist and senior at The George Washington University, received the Courage in Student Journalism Award from the Student Press Law Center and Kent State University and has worked with student Journalists and their advisers to pass a [New Voices law in West Virginia](#). They will offer suggestions and give you ideas for a roadmap to help pass such legislation in your state.

Materials needed:

Access to the podcast and computers or other means to react and apply what students have heard. "New Voices talking points" document available for download with this episode, or found via [this link](#).

Warm-up/prep:

Listen to the 40-minute discussion between Kuhlmeier, plaintiff in [Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier](#), Listopad and Hoard, as they discuss why New Voices is important legislation and how you can help set your state up for successfully passing it. Check out additional information in the links above.

Use the template provided to keep track of major points and collect ideas to use later (or indicate the time stamp to find those again).

Activity 1:

Depending on group size, Activity 1 could be for the entire class if it's a small one or in teams if it's large. Students will use the note-taking template to help them remember important points and where to find them for future reference.

Then share your findings and discuss as an entire staff or class:

- Do you think your school's student media could benefit from such a law? Why or why not? (HINT: First, does your state HAVE New Voices legislation or something similar - like California or codes that do the same thing in District of Columbia and Pennsylvania.) Does your school administration prior review your work before it's published? Have they ever told you NOT to publish something or to change it? Then what happened?
- How would this law help you and others?

- Who could you find that might be willing to help you? (Think: Other school's media? Any professional media groups? Parents? Who else? Check your template notes for other ideas from Kellen and Steve.)

Activity 2:

If you think this is a good idea, start planning the steps to make it happen and the people you think could/would help.