

## National Speech Index: April 2024 Topline Results

When it comes to whether people are able to freely express their views do you think things in America are heading in the RIGHT or WRONG direction?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Heading in the RIGHT direction	373	37
Heading in the WRONG direction	627	63

The First Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution more than 225 years ago. This is what it says: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

Based on your own thoughts about the First Amendment, can you tell us what you think about the following statement: “The First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees.”

Response	Frequency	Percent
Does not describe my thoughts at all	450	45
Slightly describes my thoughts	85	9
Somewhat describes my thoughts	170	17
Mostly describes my thoughts	176	18
Describes my thoughts completely	119	12
(Missing)	1	0

How secure do you think the right to freedom of speech is in America today?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all secure	263	26
Somewhat secure	487	49
Very secure	193	19
Completely secure	57	6

How worried, if at all, are you about losing your job because someone complains about something you have said?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all worried	331	33
Not too worried	229	23
Slightly worried	154	15
Somewhat worried	173	17
Very worried	110	11
(Missing)	2	0

Think specifically about your life and all the interactions you have had in the past month. How often have you watched what you said – that is, possibly censored your comments, questions, or words?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	140	14
Rarely, once or twice	237	24
Occasionally, a handful of times	354	35
Fairly often, a couple times a week	171	17
Very often, nearly every day	98	10

How often, if at all, should colleges and universities take positions on political issues?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	323	32
Rarely	212	21
Sometimes	325	33
Often	100	10
Always	40	4

How acceptable would you say it is for someone to engage in the following actions to protest someone giving a speech in their community?

Shouting down a speaker to prevent them from delivering their remarks.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Always acceptable	52	5
Sometimes acceptable	202	20
Rarely acceptable	281	28
Never acceptable	464	46

Using physical violence to stop the speech.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Always acceptable	25	2
Sometimes acceptable	73	7
Rarely acceptable	94	9
Never acceptable	808	81
(Missing)	1	0

How much confidence, if any, do you have that Joe Biden will protect your First Amendment rights?

Response	Frequency	Percent
No confidence at all	300	30
Very little confidence	146	15
Some confidence	213	21
Quite a lot of confidence	142	14
My full confidence	199	20

How much confidence, if any, do you have that Donald Trump will protect your First Amendment rights?

Response	Frequency	Percent
No confidence at all	326	33
Very little confidence	143	14
Some confidence	192	19
Quite a lot of confidence	165	16
My full confidence	175	18