



FIRE

Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

5 STEPS TO FIGHT CAMPUS PRESS CENSORSHIP



Direct censorship, derecognition or funding denial due to publication content, and prior review are all ways in which administrators trample student press rights.

STUDENTS CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES WITH THESE SIMPLE STEPS:

1 Know your rights. Know what your rights are and what freedom of the press means. Take advantage of resources like FIRE's Guide to Free Speech on Campus and Spotlight speech code database.

2 Be aware of university policy. Get acquainted with university policies and practices on student newspapers and media outlets. These should inform your expectations of how your school regulates student media.

3 Be firm but polite. If a university office or administrator wants to discuss newspaper content or other issues, be cooperative. Also make clear that you are aware of your free press rights and are willing to stand up for them.

4 Document everything. If you are asked to discuss a content issue or called into a meeting, make sure you document everything. Ask if you may record the conversation, and follow up with an email to confirm your understanding.

5 Network and gain allies. It is always helpful to have allies on campus, whether they are other student media outlets, professors, or fellow students. These allies can come in handy if you are faced with censorship or punishment.

REMEMBER: YOU CAN ALWAYS CONTACT FIRE FOR HELP AT THEFIRE.ORG/CASES/SUBMIT.

170 S. Independence Mall W, Suite 510 E, Philadelphia, PA 19106 /// TELE: 215.717.3473 /// FAX: 215.717.3440 /// www.thefire.org

facebook.com/thefireorg

[@thefireorg](https://twitter.com/thefireorg)

youtube.com/thefireorg