

# National Speech Index: October 2025 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	256	26
Heading in the WRONG direction	744	74

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	561	56
Slightly describes my thoughts	82	8
Somewhat describes my thoughts	159	16
Mostly describes my thoughts	95	9
Describes my thoughts completely	103	10

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

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all secure	216	22
Not very secure	371	37
Somewhat secure	265	26
Very secure	112	11
Completely secure	36	4

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	428	43
Not too worried	211	21
Slightly worried	140	14
Somewhat worried	114	11
Very worried	107	11

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	211	21
Rarely, once or twice	226	23
Occasionally, a handful of times	314	31
Fairly often, a couple times a week	159	16
Very often, nearly every day	89	9

How often, if at all, should people who express offensive opinions face consequences for their views?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	142	14
Rarely	231	23
Sometimes	436	44
Often	105	10
Always	86	9

How much, if at all, do the following statements describe your thoughts?

Words can be violence.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Does not describe my thoughts at all	235	24
Slightly describes my thoughts	170	17
Somewhat describes my thoughts	248	25
Mostly describes my thoughts	190	19
Describes my thoughts completely	155	15
(Missing)	2	0

Silence is violence.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Does not describe my thoughts at all	542	54
Slightly describes my thoughts	157	16
Somewhat describes my thoughts	187	19
Mostly describes my thoughts	68	7
Describes my thoughts completely	47	5

Political violence is a problem among progressives.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Does not describe my thoughts at all	270	27
Slightly describes my thoughts	159	16
Somewhat describes my thoughts	217	22
Mostly describes my thoughts	163	16
Describes my thoughts completely	191	19

Political violence is a problem among conservatives.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Does not describe my thoughts at all	318	32
Slightly describes my thoughts	110	11
Somewhat describes my thoughts	195	19
Mostly describes my thoughts	166	17
Describes my thoughts completely	212	21

Political violence is a problem among all political groups.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Does not describe my thoughts at all	207	21
Slightly describes my thoughts	206	21
Somewhat describes my thoughts	228	23
Mostly describes my thoughts	194	19
Describes my thoughts completely	165	16

If a professor on a college campus said any of the following statements on social media after Charlie Kirk's assassination, SHOULD THEY or SHOULD THEY NOT be fired from their job?

“It’s O.K. to punch a Nazi.”

Response	Frequency	Percent
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	251	25
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	297	30
The professor probably should be fired from their job	241	24
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	209	21
(Missing)	2	0

“These fascist Bible-thumpers want to drag us back to the Dark Ages.”

Response	Frequency	Percent
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	282	28
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	351	35
The professor probably should be fired from their job	208	21
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	158	16

“We are going to make America great again.”

Response	Frequency	Percent
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	527	53
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	331	33
The professor probably should be fired from their job	73	7
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	69	7

“Our colleges and universities are progressive indoctrination centers.”

Response	Frequency	Percent
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	352	35
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	403	40
The professor probably should be fired from their job	155	15
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	91	9

How concerned, if at all, are you about the federal government . . .

Pressuring social media companies to suppress the posting of certain viewpoints?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all concerned	100	10
Slightly concerned	116	12
Somewhat concerned	258	26
Very concerned	211	21
Extremely concerned	316	32

Pressuring video platforms to remove content because of the viewpoints expressed?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all concerned	106	11
Slightly concerned	153	15
Somewhat concerned	242	24
Very concerned	202	20
Extremely concerned	297	30

Pressuring tech companies to remove misinformation from internet search results?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all concerned	268	27
Slightly concerned	165	17
Somewhat concerned	215	22
Very concerned	155	15
Extremely concerned	197	20

Pressuring private broadcast companies to remove certain viewpoints from the airwaves?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all concerned	109	11
Slightly concerned	126	13
Somewhat concerned	240	24
Very concerned	193	19
Extremely concerned	332	33

Pressuring banks to disaffiliate from groups or individuals because of their viewpoints?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all concerned	132	13
Slightly concerned	132	13
Somewhat concerned	277	28
Very concerned	176	18
Extremely concerned	283	28