

### **Analysis of Freedoms in Relation to College Campuses**

In 1998, Alan Charles Kors a professor of history at the University Of Pennsylvania and Harvey Silvergate a criminal defense civil liberties attorney collaborated to write the book, *"The Shadow University: The Betrayal Of Liberty On America's Campuses."* The book which discusses political indoctrination on American Campuses was said to be "extremely critical" by the public. Due to the overwhelming response that the book received, in 1999 Kors and Silvergate founded The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE). FIRE is a non-profit civil rights organization that serves to protect students' First Amendment rights at American colleges and universities. One of the articles that the organization released is: "What are my rights on campus? FIRE has the answer." The article discusses the right to freedom of speech on campuses and the importance of it on college campuses. Along with this, it gives important information on the right to civil liberties that individuals possess under American law. In the article, the FIRE organization uses logos, ethos, and pathos to preserve freedom of speech on college campuses and to encourage people to practice their freedom of speech.

In the article, the FIRE organization makes usage of logos by directly addressing the first amendment right to freedom of speech to defend free speech on college campuses. It is stated that: "The First Amendment to the United States Constitution is the part of the Bill of Rights that expressly prohibits the United States Congress from making laws "respecting an establishment of religion," prohibiting the free exercise of religion, infringing freedom of speech" (FIRE). The First Amendment guarantees American citizens the right to freedom of religion, expression, and, etc. without the government's interference. Along with this, it is also stated that: "The protections of the First Amendment are extended to state governments and public university campuses by the Fourteenth Amendment" (FIRE). This means that the first amendment prohibits the government from making laws that attack freedom of speech. It also explains that colleges and universities are prohibited from limiting freedom of speech simply because the first amendment extends all the way to the state governments and university campuses under the protection of

the fourteenth amendment. Here, the organization refers directly to American law, to prove that in fact nothing should prohibit an individual from exercising their freedom of expression on college or university grounds. Similarly, under the U.S constitution, the White House refers to the first amendment when it states that the amendment: "...protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances" (The White House). Alongside this, the FIRE organization brings into light the right to due process.

In the article, the organization makes usage of ethos by defining the right to due process to make an ethical point. Here, the organization brings into perspective what fairness really means to cushion the right to freedom of speech. It is stated that: "The right to due process refers to the idea that governmental authorities must provide fair, unbiased, and equitable procedures when determining a person's guilt or innocence" (FIRE). This means that the government must practice fairness and equality when it comes to legal matters and the treatment of individuals under the law of the court. It is also stated that: "The same principle applies to judicial hearings on college campuses" (FIRE). The organization explains that the due process clause is a constitutional law and therefore forbids the government from taking legal action against individuals without procedural due process which is the right to equal protection and the right to be heard. Here the organization holds the governmental authorities accountable for this same principle when it comes to judicial hearings on college campuses. The organization is stating that if universities and college campuses care about justice then they must provide a fair, equal, and appropriate course of action to the accused and the accuser. Meaning, that those exercising their freedom of speech should ethically be protected under the American law. In fact, according to the Legal Information Institute, there is only one command that the U.S Constitution states twice. "The Fifth Amendment says to the federal government that no one shall be 'deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.' The Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, uses the same eleven words, called the Due Process

Clause, to describe a legal obligation of all states” (Strauss). For this reason, individuals have the right to fair treatment under the U.S constitution.

Moreover, the organization makes use of pathos by defining the right to religious liberty, to invoke emotions in the reader as well as encourage the reader to practice their freedom of speech. Here, the organization uncovers what religious liberty really means and highlights its importance. In the article, religious liberty is defined as: “...the right to follow the faith of your choice—or to follow no faith at all” (FIRE). This definition simply explains that individuals have the right to follow any faith of their choice or none at all. In some countries, religious liberty is restricted but under American law, individuals are free to believe anything of their choice. The article patriotically refers to the freedom individuals have under the American constitution when it refers to America as a nation. It states that: “Religious liberty is a cornerstone of our nation and is the very first freedom guaranteed to Americans by the Bill of Rights” (FIRE). The organization is stating that an important quality of American freedom is the freedom to believe in whomever and whatever individuals want. It is also the first freedom that Americans were guaranteed to by the constitution under the Bill of Rights. On the other hand, the organization sorrowfully reflects on the attack on religious liberty in college and university campuses. In the article, it is stated: “Yet on many college and university campuses, the right to associate on the basis of religious belief and even the right to express those beliefs is under attack” (FIRE). Here, the FIRE organization calls attention to how the freedom of expression in regards to religious belief is being attacked on many campuses. Overall, the organization recognizes the freedom of liberty on college campuses.

In “What are my rights on campus? FIRE has the answer,” the FIRE organization claims that freedom of speech should be preserved and encouraged on college campuses in the United States. This is effectively shown through the organization’s use of logos, when the first amendment right to freedom of speech is discussed, ethos, in defining the right to due process, and pathos, demonstrated by the author’s appeal to the reader’s emotions while discussing

religious liberty. In the article, the organization defines the First amendment right of individuals to freedom of speech. According to the article, the first amendment allows individuals to practice their beliefs, expression, assembly, etc without the government's inference. In addition, the article examines the right to due process. The right to due process is also known as the due process clause and it guarantees Americans the respect of all rights under the government. In addition, the FIRE organization explains that freedom of religious liberty is one of the first rights that Americans were given. In the United States, the freedom of religious liberty allows individuals to practice their own beliefs as well as voice those beliefs. To a large extent, the FIRE organization aims to “preserve free thought within a free society.”

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