

## it is never appropriate for the government to restrict freedom of speech.

### Yes

#### People are mean

They will sit there and basically bully you when they don't know about you. They will talk about your family. They will talk about your religion and sexuality. It's not very nice so they got to strict you on some things. The people we live with these days don't understand we are all different.

#### It is justified

Freedom of speech is often considered to be one of the most basic tenets of democracy. As a fundamental right it is enshrined in documents such as the Bill of Rights in the United States, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and the European Convention on Human Rights: 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. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

United Nations General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948:[2]

Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

"The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theatre and causing a panic." [1] Shouting fire in a crowded cinema when there is no fire, and you know it, is wrong because doing so creates a clear and present danger of harm to others.

Likewise, in the US (and many other countries) there is no protection for 'false commercial speech' (i.e. Misrepresentation) and the contents of adverts can be regulated in order to ensure that they are truthful and do not deceive consumers. [2] On that basis, restrictions can be placed on how tobacco products may be advertised, and people may be prevented from promoting illegal and fraudulent tax advice.

<[1] U.S. Supreme Court, Schenck v. United States, 249 U.S. 47, 1919,

[2] U.S. Supreme Court, Lorillard Tobacco Co v Reilly, AG of Massachusetts, 533 U.S. 525, 200>

We need to protect minors (those under the age of majority) from exposure to obscene, offensive or potentially damaging materials. While this would be a restriction on the freedom of speech it should be something that the government is responsible for and we would all agree needs some kind of restriction or regulation.

### **Yes it is very reasonable**

Yes they should. Most people say very bad stuff now a days and whenever they get in trouble for it they use the fact that they have freedom of speech for their cover up. If we don't put a stop to this then our society is only going to get worse and people are only going to start saying bad stuff and using this freedom to their advantage. I believe that they should restrict some freedom of speech but not all of it.

### **No.**

#### **The government should not restrict freedom of speech.**

The government should never restrict freedom of speech. Everyone should have a right to their own opinions/ beliefs, or ideas on whatever subject you're talking about. It's also a part of the first amendment. You can't just shove political correctness down people's throats. Not everyone is going to agree with what you have to say, & they certainly don't have to. You can't force them. Let them have their own rights.

#### **Constitution says we have freedom of speech!**

People should be able to say what they want; it is their choice; everyone has the right to say what they want. One of the only things we are completely free on. It is a right that we have in the Constitution! It wouldn't be fair for them to take that away!

#### **Leads to restriction of some words.**

I would sincerely hate for my life to mean so little; I would look to restricting words I didn't like to the point where they're illegal. Bullying is one thing, but freedom of speech is a wonderful thing, and I think if you want to make saying certain words illegal, you are weak. Very weak. Grow the fuck up and deal with it; no one gives a shit that Jimmy called you gay on Twitter.

***Produced by evans.ekk***