

Summary:

The 10th anniversary conference was a resounding success according to the responses of student evaluations: 57% of those who attended returned the survey. On a scale of 1 to 4 with 4 being the highest, 94% will recommend (27% (3), 67% (4)) CFAR's workshop to other students and teachers. Students were almost unanimous in their praise for this year's speakers (96%). The new town hall format was popular (46% (4), 44% (3)). Almost everyone liked being with other students from other schools. 59% felt that the breakout sessions were too short while 40% disagreed.

Most students completed the KWL chart (68%) - What I knew, What I didn't Know, What I learned. Without exception, students described the workshop as either, "informative," "valuable," "interesting," "educational."

The success of an educational workshop is whether students are engaged and leave with a greater understanding of the workshop's subject.

Read what students and teachers told us they learned this October. Below are a few representative comments expressing the views of the 68% who completed the KWL chart on our evaluation form.

I Learned:

"There are limits on freedom of speech, religion and press."

"How our rights apply to everyday life."

"There are a lot of grey areas and the exact restrictions."

"Purpose of first amendment"

"Everyone has different views regarding our rights as Americans."

"There are many difficult cases and how difficult it is to decide what is just or unjust in many instances."

"That being offended has such little effect on first amendment issues."

"1st Amendment protects least popular idea and minority views."

"We should exercise our freedoms more."

"1st Amendment does not protect people's feelings from being hurt."

"1st Amendment greatly affects our lives today."

"My rights and how I can use them."

"I have a better understanding of the first amendment."

“A lot about the law and how it can protect and even hinder me in school.”

“How many things affect the outcome of some of these (first amendment challenges) cases.”

“There are constitutional lawyers.”

“How difficult it is to decide whether a certain aspect of an argument is related to the first amendment.”

“Our freedoms can be restricted on school time.”

“How many different cases there are that have to do with the first amendment.”

“Everyone has a right to freedom of religion. This gives students the right to talk about their religion but not to force people to join their religion or follow their religion.”

Comments from Teachers:

“The Conference was fantastic. My students had a great time performing and learned ALOT from the opening activity. As did I. ...You did a terrific job.” Wilton High School drama coach of student production, “Voices in Conflict.”

“Best conference yet. The breakout sessions were great.” Social Studies Chair, West Haven High School

Other Comments from Students:

“I had an awesome time. It made me think a lot.”

“Loved meeting new people and hearing their views.”

“Very educational. “

“Play was incredible.”

“Whole thing was great.”

“Loved the food.”

“Play was deep and interesting.”