

Name:
Date:



‘Rise Up: Stonewall and the LGBTQ Rights Movement’ Gallery Guide

In this guide, you’ll analyze press coverage of the LGBTQ community. You will also explore how LGBTQ activists used the five freedoms of the First Amendment – speech, press, assembly, petition and religion – to fight for equal rights and social acceptance.

Find the “Newspaper Headlines Spread Stigma” section in the beginning of the exhibit.

Freedom of press gives people in the United States the right to share information without government interference or censorship. Although this right allows us to get the information we need to make decisions and participate in our democracy, it also allows unreliable, biased and even false stories to be shared.

One way to tell whether a news story is biased or fair is to look closely at the word choice in the headlines and articles. Does the story simply present the facts or lead you to make judgments about them? When a news story uses **adjectives or verbs that are very positive or negative**, it may show bias.

Look at the headlines displayed on this wall. Find two examples that you think have leading language in them, and copy them below. Then, circle the words that show bias.

Why did you circle those words? Explain, then suggest a replacement for each one.

In the face of this unsympathetic mainstream press, gay and lesbian activists exercised their freedom of press to start their own publications to inform people about their work. Name one of these publications.

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Go through the rest of the exhibit to see more examples of how LGBTQ activists used the First Amendment to make change. These questions do not have to be done in order.

Freedom of assembly allows people to freely gather in groups, as long as they are being peaceful. Write one example of LGBTQ activists using freedom of assembly, and how it helped them.

Freedom of speech gives people the right to express themselves, even if those opinions are unpopular or critical of the government. Write one example of LGBTQ activists using freedom of speech, and what impact it had.

Freedom of petition allows people to protest, or ask the government for change or to keep things the same. Write one example of LGBTQ activists using freedom of petition, and how it brought about change.

Freedom of religion allows people to practice any religion they want, or none at all, and prevents the government from favoring one religion over another. Write an example of LGBTQ activists exercising this freedom and how it helped them.

LGBTQ activists are not the only ones to use the First Amendment. Find and write down an example of how opponents of these changes to society, such as same-sex marriage, exercised their First Amendment freedoms over the same time period.

Imagine if social media had existed earlier. How could it have hurt or helped LGBTQ activists? Explain.
