

Possible thesis paper research questions (*with relevant court cases*):

- Does the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which permits schools to monitor computers and email visually and electronically, violate the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech?
ALA v. U.S. (2001); Reno v. ACLU (1997)
- Does the First Amendment’s provision concerning the separation of church and state prohibit states from giving vouchers to students to attend religiously affiliated schools?
Zelman v. Simmons-Harris (2002)
- Does the First Amendment’s separation of church and state prevent prayer in public schools, which are funded through taxes?
Good News Club v. Milford Central School (2001); Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe (2000); Lee v. Wiseman (1991); Abington Schools v. Schempp (1963); Murray v. Curtlett (1963); Engle v. Vitale (1962)
- Does the presence of “under God” in the pledge of allegiance violate the First Amendment’s separation of church and state?
Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow (unresolved)
- Does the First Amendment prevent a local school board from banning books from a high school’s library?
Island Tress Schools v. Pico (1982)
- Does the First Amendment’s protection of freedom of speech mean that students can use obscenities in school?
Bethel School District #43 v. Fraser (1987)
- Does the First Amendment’s protection of freedom of the press prevent a school administrator from removing articles from a school newspaper prior to publication of the newspaper?
Hazelwood Schools v. Kuhlmeier (1987)
- Does the Fourth Amendment’s provision against unreasonable searches and seizures prevent a school administrator from searching a student’s bag, locker, or clothing if the administrator suspects the student is in possession of drugs or weapons?
New Jersey v. TLO (1985)
- Does the Fourth Amendment prevent school boards from making drug testing a condition of participating in school sports or extracurricular activities?
Board of Education of Independent School District #92 of Pottawatomie County v. Earls (2002); Vernonia Schools v. Acton (1995)
- Are towns required by the Fourteenth Amendment to district in ways that will promote racial integration?
Scheff v. O’Neill (1989); Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
- Does a student have a Fourteenth Amendment right to “due process” before being suspended?
Goss v. Lopez (1975)
- Is it a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment for a college or university to use race as a factor when making decisions regarding admissions?
Grutter v. Bollinger (2003); Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)

