



# Host an Event on Campus!



Events are a great way to educate your campus community about the importance of free speech and due process. The list below highlights some events that students have successfully organized on their campuses.

Your Rights" event can help teach the campus community about their rights and about what campus authorities are and are not allowed to do. **Invite a FIRE staffer** to speak on these issues at length, and



identify the issues that students should be aware of. Invite campus police officers and other campus officials charged with enforcing rules on campus to attend or participate—they might even learn something! Make sure that there is time for questions from the audience as well. A great time to host a “Know Your Rights” event is before a festival on campus or another large campus event. An event like this offers a perfect opportunity to partner with other campus organizations, the office of student life, or resident advisors in freshmen dorms. Ultimately, educating your campus community about their rights will help students understand whether or not their rights are being honored.

### HOST A DEBATE

A **debate** can be a great way to get your campus talking about important issues. If your group has the funds and resources, you might consider inviting big name speakers who have opposing views to a campus debate. An alternative to inviting speakers is to host a debate between two opposing groups that are already on your campus, such as College Republicans & College Democrats. Appointing a neutral moderator is critical to a healthy debate and, more often than not, a suitable moderator can be found amongst campus faculty. Reach out to your campus newspaper to cover the event and publish a piece about it afterwards in order to keep the campus-wide discussion going even after the event has taken place.

### START AN “UNCOMFORTABLE LEARNING” GROUP

One method to bring speakers to campus is to start an “Uncomfortable Learning” speakers program at your school. **Uncomfortable Learning** started at Williams College with the goal of inviting speakers that hold controversial opinions to campus. Such speaker programs ignite debate on campus and help diverse viewpoints flourish. The goal of hearing different speakers is not necessarily to change people’s opinions on controversial issues but to change people’s attitude towards opposing viewpoints. College campus culture should be one where people feel free to disagree and challenge ideas, not one where listening to different points of view is considered taboo or even unthinkable.

### BANNED BOOK READ-OUT

Every year, Americans call for certain books to be removed from libraries and class reading lists. An effective and fun way to stand against this illiberal impulse is to host a banned book read-out during **Banned Book Week**—or anytime during the year. Gather friends, professors, and staff members and select your favorite texts that have been censored and read them in the middle of campus. You will probably want a microphone so be sure to find out whether your school has amplified sound restrictions. Consider partnering with the English and Literature departments as their support can help boost turnout and raise awareness about censorship. Another possibility is starting a banned books club. A banned books club is a great way to engage with your peers while discussing a variety of works considered “controversial” and what it means to have a free society that bans books.

### FREE SPEECH MOVIE NIGHT

A relaxing alternative to bringing in a speaker or organizing a demonstration is hosting a screening of a film that deals with free speech, freedom of expression, or due process. To generate turnout, have



## LETTER WRITING DRIVE