

Writing Activity: Evaluate an Argument

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Directions: Analyze the selections in this cluster, looking for information, claims, and evidence that have a bearing on the issue of the rights of the Nazis to march in Skokie. Then closely read the arguments Anthony Lewis lays out on that topic in the selection “Thoughts That We Hate.” Evaluate the arguments the courts made on the Skokie march. You might present your evaluation in a chart or discuss it in an essay.

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- Start by writing a paragraph that summarizes the arguments Lewis lays out on First Amendment rights in “Thoughts That We Hate.”
- Review the selections in Cluster 1, keeping in mind the cluster’s essential question (“How would society be different without the First Amendment?”) as you re-read each text.
- Identify quotes or details in each reading that have a bearing on the right of the Nazis to march in Skokie. You can use the graphic organizer on the next two screens to collect your thoughts.

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Selection	Relevant quotes or details	How they apply to the Skokie march
The First Amendment		
Washington and the Touro Synagogue		
Jefferson and the “Wall of Separation”		

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Selection	Relevant quotes or details	How they apply to the Skokie march
Declaration of Conscience		
Irregular Verbs		
Thoughts That We Hate		
Are Violent Video Games Protected Speech?		

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Based on your analysis and evaluation of the arguments related to freedom of speech, do you agree that recognizing a right of the Nazis to march in Skokie was the best resolution? Write an argumentative essay that uses details from the readings in Cluster 1 to evaluate claims and counterclaims related to the right to free speech and to put forward your own argument.

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A Strong Essay

- lays out the arguments that favored the right of the Nazis to march in Skokie
- uses quotes and details from Cluster 1 readings to examine claims and counterclaims
- supports your conclusion with ample facts, reasons, and other evidence