

Lesson Plan: The Road to a Policy Statement

The 2026 Constitution Day theme, according to the Bill of Rights Institute, is “The Road to the Constitution.” What kind of road must high school media follow to get the maximum freedom and thus the best experience for both the students on staff and others who will be reading their content?

It takes a solid **policy statement**. And, just like building a road, that takes some time and planning. Following these steps should help your school’s media come up with something that protects student voices and assures administrators you’re doing so legally and ethically.

Day 1

Brainstorming.

- Why do you want or need a policy for your student media?
- What challenges have you had in the past that a policy might prevent?
- Would making your purpose and your rights and responsibilities clear to others help avoid some of these challenges?
- That’s what a policy statement is designed to do.
- Watch and discuss the PowerPoint.

Day 2 and probably more (may vary with staff)

- Go through and thoroughly discuss the ppt.
- Additional explanation of policies are available at the Student Press Law Center
- <https://splc.org/model/>

Good luck – this process will ultimately make your lives easier.