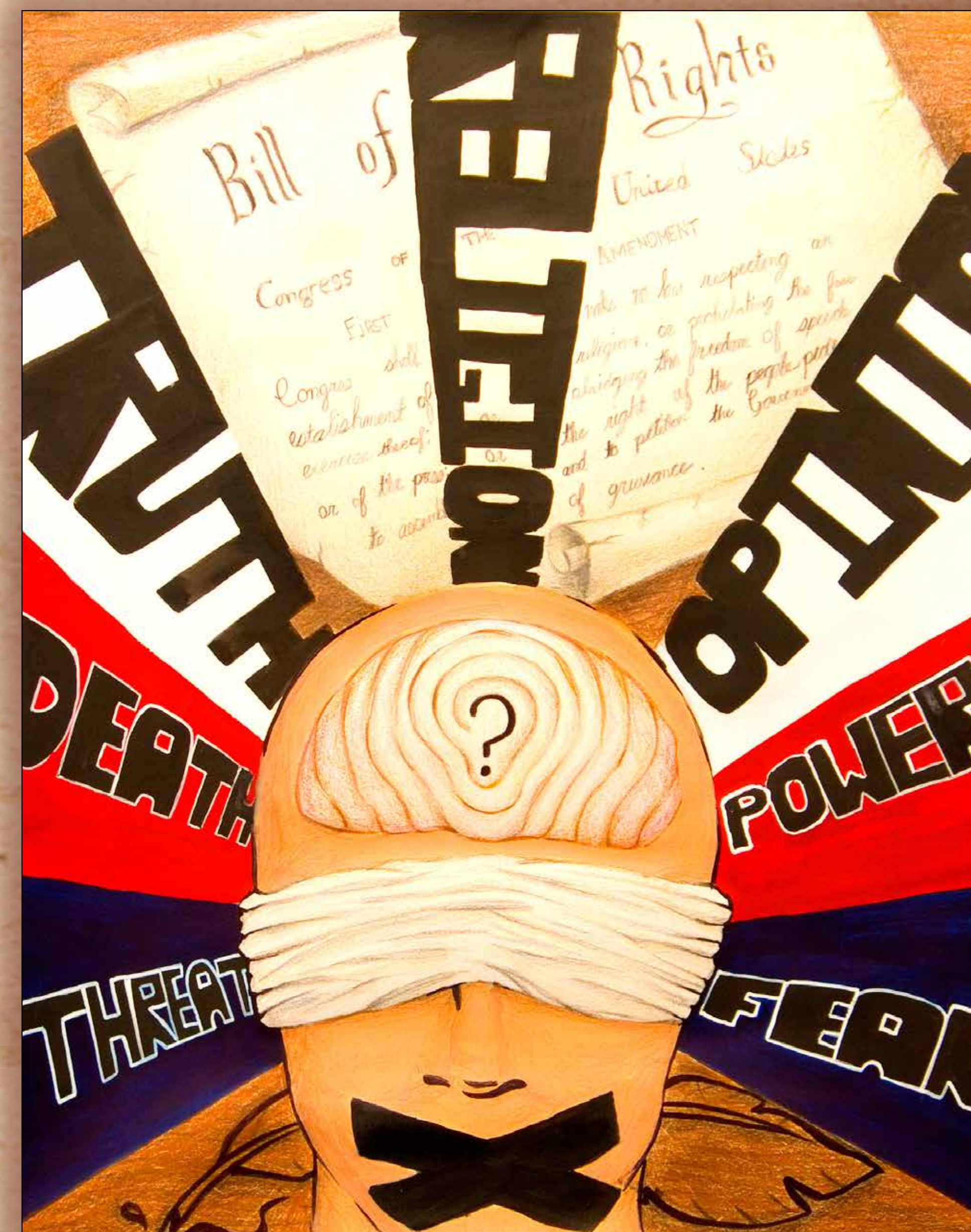




Our First Amendment FREEDOMS

Jeremiah Yang Attea Middle School

“My artwork is a representation of how the government doesn’t really give us true freedom. One thing that I tried to display in my artwork is that the government does not allow us to say or learn about certain things. An example of this would be Edward Snowden, the man who leaked NSA information because he thought that everyone should know about the information. Because he leaked NSA information, he had to run away from the United States, and take refuge in a different country. This is a way the government pressures us not to say things that they don’t want us to say. This is what I wanted to display in my artwork, and this is what it means to me.”





Our First Amendment FREEDOMS

Brittany Huang Glenbrook North High School

“My digital illustration reflects on the opportunity for every individual to practice whichever faith he/she desires while living in America, where religious oppression doesn’t strike, as it does in other part of our globe. The image consists of a left side and a right side as contrasting sides of religious tolerance. The collection of images that point to areas in the United States show the freedom and new opportunities that individuals and their families enjoy while living in America. The words “coexists” and “submit” summarize two different government attitudes as we compare America with other more riotous nations because America is a place where each different individual can practice their faith freely, with confidence that their government will protect their personal rights.”



2nd
PLACE
Art Contest
Middle School Category

Our First Amendment **FREEDOMS**

Reaghan Maloney *Harter Middle School*

“The painting done for the First Amendment Art and Essay Contest shows all five parts of the first amendment: freedom of speech, religion, assembly, press, and petition. The [social media] symbols show how I use my freedom of speech in social media. There are also images of different religion’s churches that show how I am allowed to choose my religious beliefs. The right to “peacefully assemble” affects my life everyday by the activities and clubs in which I participate. By having the right to press I have the right to hear about people everywhere. The middle of my painting is a piece of blank paper and a pen. This represents the freedom I have to petition the government. I can petition whatever I want whenever I want. These five freedoms illustrated in my painting are the basis of what America embodies... a free country.”





Our First Amendment FREEDOMS

Kellie Roth Stevenson High School

“‘Zip your lips’ is a common phrase that many Americans take for granted. In countries like North Korea and Iran, citizens’ speech is heavily restricted and many people are punished for speaking out. I can’t imagine living in a world like that, and I have had the privilege of being able to speak my mind due to the First Amendment. As an American, we are all capable of finding our true voices.”





Our First Amendment FREEDOMS

Isabelle Nowak
Conrady Junior High School

“ Freedom of Expression..
free me of oppression,
suppression,
regression,
no guessin, a lesson's to be taught..
Freedom can't be bought,
the concept should be “re-thought”,
I'm out to prove my people's struggle
wasn't all for naught.. ”



Our First Amendment FREEDOMS

Kaitlyn Yi
Century Junior High School

“ Since I was born in America, I used to take my freedom of religion for granted. I’m so accustomed to living with all of my freedoms that I never thought about how much it would affect me if I didn’t have freedom of religion. After hearing my great grandparents’ story, I realized how thankful I am to be able to practice Christianity without the fear of being watched, caught, and killed for my faith. ”



Our First Amendment FREEDOMS

Allison Neggers
Evanston Township High School

“ And there is nothing more special than when my life becomes a learning experience with each new day, upon every evening prayer and explanation of the Buddha beads, upon each Baha’i temple window and hijab wrapping. I believe there too is beauty in the fact that I also get to teach peers about my own Catholic faith. ”



Our First Amendment FREEDOMS

Kamsi Onwochei
Elgin Academy

“*Though both assembly and petition are rights that many people today take for granted, at the end of the day, we are fortunate to have them because many people on the other side of the world could only dream of having such freedom. Those two simple rights could have put an end to many violent disputes in other countries around the world. If the people in Nigeria had the same freedoms as the Americans do, then the citizens who felt strongly about having an Islamic State would know that they had the right to protest and fight for what they believe in peacefully.*”



Our First Amendment FREEDOMS

Michael Malina
Niles West High School

“ I am who I am for a specific reason. I was not told what to be. I was not told what to believe in. There is no mold to fill. In America, you create your own destiny, your own mold. This is why millions and millions of immigrants have chosen to live here. This is why America is so special. ”