

Silence Dogood No. 8

1. Why are some of the spellings in these documents different from what we're used to?
2. Why are some of the words capitalized? Which types of words are the ones capitalized?
3. What connection is there between Silence Dogood No. 8, Franklin's poem "On the Freedom of the Press," and the First Amendment to the Constitution?
4. According to "Silence Dogood" (aka Ben Franklin), which types of leaders are likely to try to suppress freedom of speech?
5. Ben Franklin was a printer. What connection do you see between his profession and his support for free speech? How does this relate to the First Amendment of the Constitution?
6. *Rara Temporum felicitate, ubi sentire quae velis, & quae sentias dicere licet*
What language is this? Why do you think Franklin quotes from another language?
7. Where is this quote originally from?
8. Why did Franklin quote it?
9. What is meant by the phrase, "affecting the Diadem?"

QUOTES TO EXPLAIN

What do these phrases mean to you? Do you agree with them? Can you give any examples to illustrate the ideas behind them?

"Without Freedom of Thought, there can be no such Thing as Wisdom; and no such Thing as publick Liberty, without Freedom of Speech; which is the Right of every Man, as far as by it, he does not hurt or controul the Right of another."

"This sacred Privilege is so essential to free Governments, that the Security of Property, and the Freedom of Speech always go together; and in those wretched Countries where a Man cannot call his Tongue his own, he can scarce call any Thing else his own."



Why do security of property and freedom of speech go together? Do you agree?

What are some “wretched Countries where a Man cannot call his Tongue his own?”

If you don’t own your own speech, who does? If you don’t own your own property, who does?

Who owns you, in a free country?

“A free People will be shewing that they are so, by their Freedom of Speech.”

“Whoever would overthrow the Liberty of a Nation, must begin by subduing the Freeness of Speech; a Thing terrible to Publick Traytors.”

How does restricting freedom of speech contribute to the overthrow of a nation? —
Why does Franklin think that?

Why would “Publick Traytors” be afraid of the Freeness of Speech and seek to subdue it?

“Freedom of Speech is ever the Symptom, as well as the Effect of a good Government.”

“The best Princes have ever encouraged and promoted Freedom of Speech; they know that upright Measures would defend themselves, and that all upright Men would defend them.”

“Guilt only dreads Liberty of Speech, which drags it out of its lurking Holes, and exposes its Deformity and Horrour to Daylight.”

“Misrepresentation of publick Measures is easily overthrown, by representing publick Measures truly; when they are honest, they ought to be publickly known, that they may be publickly commended; but if they are knavish or pernicious, they ought to be publickly exposed, in order to be publickly detested.”

“It is the Interest, and ought to be the Ambition, of all honest Magistrates, to have their Deeds openly examined, and publickly scann’d: Only the wicked Governours of Men dread what is said of them.”

