



Classroom Activities: *All Minus One*

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Richard Reeves and Jonathan Haidt introduce their edited extract of John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty*, titled *All Minus One*, by posing the question: "Why is free speech important in a liberal democracy?" Mill opens his argument for free speech by asking us, his readers, to imagine a world in which just one person holds a view contrary to that held by the rest of humanity. Reeves and Haidt end the introduction to *All Minus One* by asking: "What harm could be done by silencing this lone eccentric?"

Aim and Objectives

The activities in this guide aim to help students understand the importance of free speech for all, even those with whom we disagree, by understanding the arguments Mill articulated in *All Minus One*. By completing these activities, students will be able to:

- Understand the three central arguments for free speech presented in *All Minus One*.
- Show they understand the three central arguments by illustrating each.
- Apply the teachings of Mill by presenting the opposing view of an opinion which they support.

Summary

- The activities are geared towards students in the upper grades of high school (secondary school) but can be adapted for the lower grades of high school and the early years of college.
- Before reading *All Minus One* and implementing these activities, we recommend checking out the guide "[How to Create a Political Classroom](#)" for tips on how to structure a classroom conducive to discussing and practicing what Mill advocates.
- Plan to spend roughly one week teaching *All Minus One*—the time depends on the reading level of students.
- Heterodox Academy is proud to provide *All Minus One* for free pdf download and audio recording [here](#).