



UK Dow Jones Workshop 2009

Profile of Kevin Johnson

By: Parys Grigsby

Meet 16-year-old Kevin Dupree Johnson, a young man who devotes countless hours to honing his musical talents. Be it beat-making on the latest software or practicing on the piano or playing the drums, Kevin enjoys all aspects of the musical industry. Born on July 31, 1992, Kevin Johnson is currently a rising senior at Bryan Station High School. He is the only child to Phoebe and Keith Johnson and currently resides in Lexington, Ky. His favorite things include the color blue, lobster, and the LRG clothing label. He enjoys shopping, relaxing with friends and family and listening to music.

Kevin aspires to attend music school after graduation in pursuit of a career as a music producer. Today, Kevin improves his musical skills by creating beats, playing the piano and the drums, and spending time in the studio. He mainly focuses on making beats for R&B and hip-hop songs. Some time ago Kevin found out that his hard work was paying off. Celebrities have been showing interest in the beats he created!

With little journalism experience, his parents' decision to send him to the Dow Jones Summer Journalism Workshop turned out to be one he thoroughly enjoyed. When asked about his favorite part of the workshop he exclaimed, "I loved meeting all of the new people and spending time laughing with them."

First Amendment
By: Kevin Johnson

The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech, of press, of religion, to petition the government and the right to assemble peaceably. It is called the First Amendment because out of all of them it was the first actually adopted. This amendment was added to the Constitution after it was confirmed in 1791.

Large amounts of people from different countries want to come over to America because of all of the freedom we have. Many Americans take these rights for granted because they have lived here all of their lives and for many there has never been a time when they had these freedoms taken away. The government has taken some of our freedom away by censoring newspapers and many other forms of communication such as magazines, radio, Internet and television. Other than the government censoring those forms of communication we are allowed to do pretty much whatever we want to.

There are some times when the First Amendment cannot help you. An example of when this amendment can't help you is if you were to yell something obscene like "fire" in a crowded area. This would be abusing your right of free speech. In the past many people have abused their rights when they burned the flag in Texas. When this happened in 1989 it was a big deal but after the case they said that it could be considered as freedom of speech but many people were outraged because they thought that it was appalling to our country.

The only people in America that find out to not take these amendments for granted are the people that have been imprisoned. When they get locked up they have to be watched 24/7 to make sure that they are not doing anything wrong. Their right to petition the government is also taken away because unless they were locked up by mistake, no one is going to want to hear about them protesting the government. They also can't assemble either because if too many of the inmates got around each other then something bad would probably happen.

People in the United States are not aware of how important these freedoms are because they have them. There are places where people don't have a choice to which religion they want to be in. In some of those same places they also are not allowed to petition the government because they live in a dictatorship and what they say means nothing to their government. Some of the countries that have very limited freedoms are most of the countries in the Middle Eastern area.

Many of us have different views on the First Amendment but at the end of the day we should all know that it provides us with freedom. Having freedom is one of the greatest things that America can offer. Without many of the freedoms that we have then there would not be a lot of successful people such as journalists because what they write would mean nothing if we lived in a dictatorship.