

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[DATE] [Insert your information here:

Local Project Director, Title and Organization

Phone Number and Email

Website]

**Presentation Explores First Amendment Right**

**[Community Name] –** [Organization Name] in [Community Name] will host “Free Speech in Times of Crisis,” a presentation and discussion by Stephen Wolgast on [Date] at [Time] at [Location and Address of Presentation]. Members of the community are invited to attend the free program. Contact the [Host Organization Name] at [Phone Number] for more information. The program is made possible by Humanities Kansas.

[List any details about local event here]

The First Amendment grants U.S. citizens with the right to express their opinions, including times when society is under stress. History shows, however, that sometimes people in positions of authority work to close off public discussion. This presentation will look at the reasons free speech is protected and provide current examples of how people in authority dissuade the public from speaking up.

Stephen Wolgast holds the Knight Chair in Audience and Community Engagement for News at the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas. Wolgast spent ten years at Kansas State University as a student media adviser and journalism professor.

“One of the jobs the press has is to hold a mirror to society,” said Wolgast. “That’s why we have to report on the failings of government and institutions, even if it upsets the powers that be. If the press can motivate people to act when things aren’t going well, then by one measure the press has succeeded.”

“Free Speech in Times of Crisis”is part of Humanities Kansas's *Movement of Ideas* Speakers Bureau, featuring presentations and workshops designed to share stories that inspire, spark conversations that inform, and generate insights that strengthen civic engagement.

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For more information about “Free Speech in Times of Crisis”in[Community] contact the [Host Organization] at [Phone Number] or visit [Website].

**About Humanities Kansas**

Humanities Kansas is an independent nonprofit spearheading a movement of ideas to empower the people of Kansas to strengthen their communities and our democracy. Since 1972, our pioneering programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and generate insights. Together with our partners and supporters, we inspire all Kansans to draw on history, literature, ethics, and culture to enrich their lives and serve the communities and state we all proudly call home. Visit humanitieskansas.org.

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