

## **The Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism (SOJ) Guidelines for Free Expression on Campus**

### **SOJ's Commitment to an Educational Environment and Freedom of Expression**

Students and student organizations have the right to freedom of expression within the limits of the law. The School reserves the right to impose reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of expression as outlined in the university's [Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order Pursuant to Article 19-A of the Educational Law](#).

At SOJ, we aim to teach students how to think, rather than what to think. Therefore, we do not support or suppress any viewpoints on any issues, as long as they comply with CUNY policy and or NYS law. SOJ recognizes its responsibility to facilitate peaceful demonstrations while ensuring the safety of individuals and allowing the school's essential activities to proceed without unreasonable disruption. CUNY defines student demonstrations as any form of civic expression through which students convey their opinions, demands, support for or opposition to any subject, or the like, through marches, parades, rallies, protests, or similar activities. This policy also includes counterdemonstrations, in which students express opposing viewpoints in response to a demonstration. It's important to note that demonstrations are different from student events and tabling activities. Requests for demonstrations should be submitted to Student Affairs for approval who would then submit a room/location reservation request. Demonstration organizers must read this document and submit the request to the Office of Student Affairs *at least seven business days* before the planned demonstration date for consideration.

### **The following information provides further general guidance for uniformity and consistency as to CUNY regulations/guidelines that apply to all demonstrations:**

- Encampments are prohibited on campus. CUNY was a zero-tolerance stance regarding encampments on property owned and managed by the University.

- The preventing or attempting to force the cancellation of any class, or event or activity sponsored by SOJ or by any persons is unauthorized.
- The blocking or otherwise interfering with the ability of others to go into and out of the campus building is prohibited.
- Individuals may not engage in behavior that obstructs or attempts to force the cancellation of any event or activity sponsored by SOJ or by anyone authorized to use the school's facilities.
- The incident of imminent lawless action by yourself or others is prohibited.
- The harassment, physical abuse, or threats toward another person or member of the school community is prohibited.
- Demonstrations are permitted between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Demonstrations should be no longer than three hours.
- Significant volume of noise preventing members of the school community from performing their normal campus activities is prohibited. Amplified sound (e.g.; bullhorns) is not permitted on campus.
- During a demonstration, no structures are allowed on campus without the express written approval of the Director of Public Safety or their designee.
- No unattended placards, banners, or other signs are permitted, unless they are affixed securely to a location that has been approved for posting. Posting of flyers/posters must be obtained by the Office of Student Affairs at least three business days before the event.
- Persons on campus must comply with the directions of any SOJ official, including but not limited to Public Safety. For example, all individuals must present a SOJ-issued identification card or a valid state-issued ID when requested by an SOJ official. SOJ follows [CUNY's Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order Pursuant to Article 19-A of the Educational Law](#).

### **Designated Locations**

SOJ is situated on various floors within a leased building and is one of many tenants. There are no public assembly spaces within SOJ. However, protests and demonstrations are permitted in SOJ's cafeteria on the 3rd floor.

### **Compliance with This Policy**

The Demonstration organizers and sponsoring organization leadership are responsible for educating participants about this Policy and other applicable SOJ policies and are required to immediately report any disorderly conduct during a demonstration to the Office of Public Safety.

Failure to follow instructions from Public Safety or other SOJ officials, whether before or during a demonstration or at any time, may lead to the individual being removed from campus considered a trespasser. Non-compliance may also result in conduct charges in accordance with CUNY policies.

Students and student organizations have the right to freedom of expression within the limits of the law. The School reserves the right to impose reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of expression as outlined in the university's [Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order Pursuant to Article 19-A of the Educational Law.](#)