

Have you been told by a school employee not to discuss a topic or issue in your student media?

	Yes	No
All Students	38%	62%
Female	41%	59%
Male	28%	72%

Have you refrained from discussing a topic or issue in your student media because you anticipated a negative reaction from the school?

	Yes	No
All Students	47%	53%
Female	53%	47%
Male	27%	73%

What were the topics or issues that you were asked not to discuss, or refrained from discussing, in your student media?

Drugs/Marijuana	16%
LGBTQ Issues	15%
Religion	14%
Controversial Topics	12%



ARE GIRLS MORE LIKELY TO SELF-CENSOR?

Female student journalists are almost twice more likely to self-censor than males, according to new research from Peter Bobkowski and Genelle Belmas at the University of Kansas.

The research found that 53 percent of female students refrained from discussing a topic or issue in student media because of an anticipated negative reaction from the school, compared to 27 percent of male students.

The University of Kansas' research questioned 461 high school student journalists attending one-day regional workshops in the southeastern United States in October. The survey findings tell a stark story about gender bias in schools.

"There is tremendous potential in journalism education to help students discover their voices and to practice civic communication skills," Bobkowski said. "Unfortunately, our study shows that girls are at a disadvantage when it comes to benefiting from journalism."

Female journalists were more likely to be told by a school employee not to discuss a topic or issue in student media than their male counterparts, according to the research.

"School administrators and teachers appear more likely to prevent girls from covering the issues they see as important in the student media than they are to prevent boys from doing so," said Bobkowski. "Instead of empowering girls and building up their confidence, journalism classrooms appear to be one more setting where girls' voices are disproportionately devalued and muted."

Bobkowski and Belmas conducted this research in partnership with Active Voice, a project of the Student Press Law Center (SPLC). Active Voice works to make the voices of women and girls heard in the media through advocacy campaigns and by training women and girls to participate in media, safely and without fear of reprisal.

SPLC board member Nabihah Syed said about the project, "It's absolutely necessary that we understand and identify solutions for censorship, especially the kind that happens at a critical young age."

The results of the survey were released Tuesday, March 8, at SXSWedu in Austin.