

EQ ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

How Can We Balance Everyone's Rights?

People tend to forget their duties but remember their rights.

—INDIRA GANDHI

I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty.

—JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.

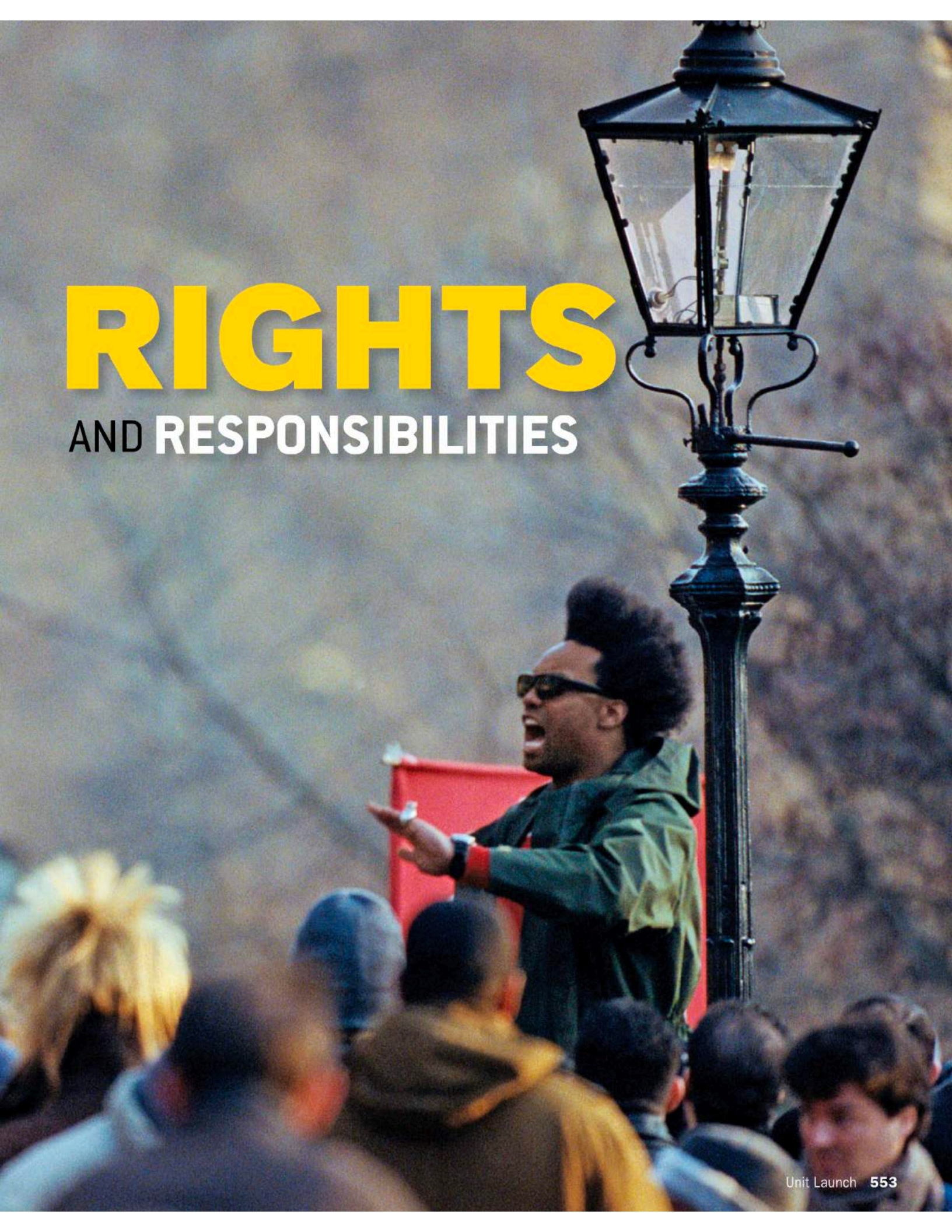
Critical Viewing ▶

A young man speaks his mind at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park, London, England. The law ensures that he can speak freely, no matter what he has to say. How does this demonstrate a balance between his rights and others'?



RIGHTS

AND RESPONSIBILITIES





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Study the Chart

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees some basic civil liberties. Among these are the three freedoms listed below: speech, the press, and religion. How do the responsibilities balance the rights in each case?

Freedom	EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO ...	EVERYONE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO ...
Freedom of Speech	express beliefs or opinions	avoid telling things that are not true or that might harm a person's ability to earn a living
Freedom of the Press	print all the news without government censorship or interference	strive to be accurate
Freedom of Religion	practice a religion of one's choice	avoid interfering with the rights of others or breaking the law

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Analyze and Debate

1. Imagine that you are sitting in a crowded movie theater when someone stands up and yells "Fire!" even though he knows there is no fire. Is this person balancing his rights with his responsibilities? Why or why not? What consequences could stem from his actions?
2. There have been many instances where a newspaper considers publishing an article that the government believes will reveal information that is important to our national security. Does the newspaper have a right to publish this type of article? Is the newspaper acting responsibly if it does? How can the paper balance the right to freedom of the press with the responsibility to protect national security?

Talk with a group. Explain your opinion and support your ideas with evidence from your knowledge and experience. Listen carefully to others' positions.



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

In this unit, you will explore the **Essential Question** in class through reading, discussion, research, and writing. Keep thinking about the question outside of school, too.