

Rights in New York

Find how federal and state protections support New Yorkers.

4.4d "New Yorkers have rights and freedoms that are guaranteed in the United States Constitution, in the New York State Constitution, and by state laws."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline specific rights or freedoms. Beside each, write the source named in that paragraph: 1 = United States Constitution, 2 = New York State Constitution, 3 = state law. A right can have more than one source of protection.

Protections at Work

- ① New Yorkers have rights and freedoms that help them take part in community life. The United States Constitution is the nation's highest law. Its First Amendment protects freedoms such as speaking, practicing religion, publishing ideas, meeting peacefully, and asking the government to solve a problem. These freedoms let people share ideas, even when others disagree, while following laws that protect safety and order.
- ② New York State also has its own constitution. It protects people's rights to speak freely, publish ideas, worship as they choose, assemble peacefully, and petition the government. These protections work alongside the United States Constitution. They help people participate in public life. A state constitution may give people protections in New York, but it cannot take away a right protected by the United States Constitution.
- ③ State laws can also protect rights. For example, the New York State Human Rights Law bars discrimination in many areas, including jobs, housing, and public places. It helps protect people from unfair treatment because of traits such as race, religion, disability, or age. When people believe their rights have been violated, they can seek help through the legal system.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Name two freedoms protected by the First Amendment in paragraph 1.

2 How does the New York State Constitution work alongside the United States Constitution?

3 What state law is named in paragraph 3? Name two areas where it bars discrimination.

4 A person believes they were treated unfairly at work because of a protected trait. Which source in the passage could help protect that person?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one freedom named in the passage. Write three sentences about a situation in which a New Yorker uses that one freedom responsibly. Name one source that protects it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline specific rights or freedoms. Beside each, write the source named in that paragraph: 1 = United States Constitution, 2 = New York State Constitution, 3 = state law. A right can have more than one source of protection. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two freedoms protected by the First Amendment in paragraph 1.	Any two: freedom of speech, religion, the press, peaceful assembly, or petitioning the government.
2	How does the New York State Constitution work alongside the United States Constitution?	It gives protections to people in New York, but it cannot take away a right protected by the United States Constitution.
3	What state law is named in paragraph 3? Name two areas where it bars discrimination.	The New York State Human Rights Law; it bars discrimination in jobs, housing, and public places.
4	A person believes they were treated unfairly at work because of a protected trait. Which source in the passage could help protect that person?	A state law, specifically the New York State Human Rights Law.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maya shares her opinion about a book at a library discussion. She speaks calmly and lets other people share different views. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects her freedom of speech.

Accept equivalent examples of the listed freedoms and accurate source connections from the passage. For the open response, accept any realistic responsible use of one freedom, as long as the student names a correct protecting source.