

Campus Free Expression and Student Self-Silencing: Why Students Don't Feel Comfortable Expressing Their Views

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In the wake of the 2016 presidential election, U.S. college administrators have faced increasing pressure on campus free expression. Previous research indicated that although students believe a university education should expose them to a variety of political, social and economic viewpoints, many students reported feeling less comfortable discussing controversial issues inside and outside class with professors than talking about them with peers. The purpose of this paper is to better understand why students self-silence and how they navigate increasingly polarized campus climates.