Nick Davila 1/15/15

The first amendment means you can practice any religion, publish anything, say anything, have meetings at any time and can sign any papers you choose. Believe it or not after 218 years it is still in use today. In New York City and in other parts of the country such as Missouri there is major protesting taking place.

Recently there have been counts of assault by the police to two African American men. Some people think its racism and some just think it’s cruel. The first act of assault was acted on a man named Michael Brown in Missouri. This man had just robbed a cigar store. He was unarmed when the police showed up he started to brutally punch the officer, so the officer shot his gun and unintentionally killed him. The second account of assault was on a man named Eric Garner. The man was illegally selling cigarettes in New York City. The Police asked him to put his hands behind his back and he nonviolently and respectfully asked why he was under arrest and didn’t put his hands behind his back so according to law this was considered resisting arrest. So the officer began to put Garner in a chokehold. Garner said I can’t breathe several times while being in a choke hold. Garner was let go and left lying in the street as the police waited for paramedics to come. The paramedics thought it was unnecessary to perform CPR and he was pronounced dead on arrival to the hospital.

This sparked major protesting in New York City and in Missouri recalling the crimes. In Missouri people protested causing violence and a break in peace. Which is breaking amendment 1. In New York City there was also violence and break in peace but people also held up signs saying “I can’t breathe” and “Justice for Garner”. But mainly this amendment still applies now because these people were allowed to protest and speak freely. Also by protesting there was justice for Eric Garner. The officer who put the chokehold on Garner was suspended without pay and the officer who killed Michael brown was also suspended. So in conclusion freedom of speech was used today and is important because it helped gain justice for the supporters of Michael Brown and Eric Garner.

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Timeline-Eric-Garner-Chokehold-Death-Arrest-NYPD-Grand-Jury-No-Indictment-284657081.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2014/dec/04/i-cant-breathe-eric-garner-chokehold-death-video>

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/michael-brown-shooting>