

**News8** MAKING A DIFFERENCE

“Police forces shall make no action respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

- First amendment of the Bill of Rights (“Congress” changed to “police forces,” “law” to “action”)

**We all have the right to talk as much as we want. It’s called “Freedom of Speech,” if you didn’t know already. It’s a right, not a privilege. But this was all changed in September 2007, when Mr. Andrew Meyer was Tasered for asking Democrat John Kerry questions at a public forum at the University of Florida.**



This is absolutely outrageous, for he was asking perfectly reasonable questions and had only spent 1 minute and 50 seconds at the stand before they cut off his microphone. Then, standing and wondering why, they arrested him for no good reason. In a fight against America’s crumbling justice system, with fellow students cheering for him, Mr. Meyer tried to break free. The two officers continued to pull on his shirt, and eventually he was being dragged down the aisle. Continuing to resist arrest, the officers pulled out the last-resort Taser, and sent a 50,000 volt shock through his body.

*“When you’re looking for your freedom,  
Nobody seems to care,  
And you can’t find the door,  
You can’t find it anywhere,  
When there’s nothing to believe in.”*  
- Eagles

Why? Five officers against one man, they obviously had the manpower to arrest him peacefully, but to add emphasis, Tasered him instead. Sure he was resisting arrest, but he shouldn't have been arrested anyway. How was his talking in a forum "disturbing the peace"? This was Kerry's forum, and he *wanted* to answer the questions, he announced on the speakers. But he was barred from taking action, thanks to the ridiculous acts of the university police.



That's not nice!

Later, Kerry said:

"In 37 years of public appearances, through **wars, protests and highly emotional events**, I have **never had a dialogue end this way**. I believe I **could have handled the situation without interruption**, but I do not know what warnings or other exchanges transpired between the young man and the police prior to his barging to the front of the line and their intervention. **I asked the police to allow me to answer the question** and was in the **process of responding** when he was taken into custody. I was not aware that a taser was used until after I left the building. I hope that neither the student nor any of the police were injured. I regret enormously that **a good healthy discussion was interrupted.**"

