

## ***Protection of Individual Rights in the Modern World***

<b>Framing Question:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What limits individual rights?</li> </ul>
<b>Materials:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ U.S. Constitution – Bill of Rights (selected amendments—see Individual Rights Scenarios Answer Sheet)</li> <li>▪ Individual Rights Scenarios Sheets, 1 per student</li> <li>▪ The Bill of Rights is included in the Background Information for your reference</li> </ul>
<b>Opening Activity (5 Minutes):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ask students to identify several stated or implied rights from our founding documents (e.g., speech, arms, pursuit of happiness, religion, assembly, possession of property, etc.) and close by dividing students into small groups (of 4 to 6) for the exercise.</li> </ul>
<b>Class Activity (30 Minutes):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Once divided into small groups, assign each small group a scenario for them to examine and discuss. Each scenario has an “actor” that wishes to exercise an individual right, plans to do something and/or engage in an activity that may or may not infringe upon the individual rights of others. Many scenarios present more than one problem.</li> <li>▪ Within each small group, one or more students will argue for the right of the actor to act and one or more other students will argue against the actor’s right to act while the remaining student(s) will seek to identify a compromise.</li> <li>▪ Bring the class back together and facilitate a discussion based on each group’s short presentation of its issue, debate and results (each group should designate one student to present). Note: Students may come up with rights that are not enumerated in the Bill of Rights, such as the right to privacy. Allow them to explore those avenues as well.</li> <li>▪ Encourage students to think critically about: (a) how their actions may impact others; and (b) how they might participate in the legal process of balancing individual rights.</li> </ul>
<b>Closing Activity (5 Minutes):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Close the discussion by revealing to each group the corresponding Amendments that pertain to their situation, using the Individual Rights Scenario Answer Sheet.</li> <li>▪ If you’d like, you can photocopy the Background Information and pass it out to the students so that they have the Bill of Rights for reference.</li> </ul>
<b>Enrichment Activity (For extended class periods):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tie this lesson back to what the student have learned over the course of the year.</li> <li>▪ Remind them of the various lessons and see if they can trace the development of law from ancient times to the law as we know it here in the United States.</li> </ul>

## INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS SCENARIOS

(1) Joe buys a row home in a nearby neighborhood. He wants to live in total privacy with his eight adorable puppies, rooster, and two chickens. Joe plans to grow food in his back yard, drink rainwater, use solar power for energy, worship his cult leader, and never leave his home. There is a law that prohibits homeowners from keeping chickens and roosters in a residential area. Acceptable or not? What are Joe's rights? What are his neighbors' rights?

(2) Michael plans to publish an annual yearbook about famous people and their most embarrassing adventures throughout the year. All of the embarrassing adventures sound believable, but are all total lies. Michael knows that his stories are untrue and hurtful but doesn't care because he wants to get rich and become a famous person too. One celebrity catches wind of Michael's plans and hires a private investigator, who doubles as a police officer, to search Michael's house for fake pictures and the manuscript so it can be destroyed. The private investigator was on duty when he searched Michael's home. Acceptable or not? What are Michael's rights? What are the celebrities' rights?

(3) Susan likes guns and shoes. Every week for the next year, she plans to buy one pair of shoes and one gun that she will paint to match the shoes. Susan is 30 years old and lives in a small apartment with her husband and 12-year-old son. Because the apartment is getting crowded with so many previously purchased guns and shoes, Susan's husband asked her to store the new guns and shoes in the large trunk of her pink Cadillac. Acceptable or not? What are Susan's rights? What rights does the general public have?

(4) Rick likes to write music and sing songs. He is a former American Idol finalist and Grammy nominee. In an interview, he once said that the secret to his success is to always let his creativity flow no matter where he is. Tonight Rick plans to see the premier showing of the most popular movie starring your favorite actors, and you happen to have tickets too. If Rick gets a new hit song inspiration during the movie, he will stand up and sing to let his creativity flow. You plan on protesting with your friends if he starts to sing. Acceptable or not? What are Rick's rights? What are your rights as an audience member?

(5) Tina recently inherited a nice restaurant from her uncle who suffered a fatal injury after he tripped over a blind person's guide dog just as he was pouring a very hot cup of coffee last year. To honor her uncle and prevent similar accidents, Tina posted a sign outside her restaurant that forbids anyone from bringing guide dogs into the restaurant. The local Association for the Blind protests Tina's sign. Acceptable or not? What are Tina's rights? What rights do people owning guide dogs have (be careful—the sign is very specific!)?

## INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS SCENARIOS ANSWER SHEET

1. Joe buys a row home in a nearby neighborhood. He wants to live in total privacy with his eight adorable puppies, rooster, and two chickens. Joe plans to grow food in his back yard, drink rainwater, use solar power for energy, worship his cult leader, and never leave his home. There is a law that prohibits homeowners from keeping chickens and roosters in a residential area. Acceptable or not? What are Joe's rights? What are his neighbors' rights?

**Amendments:** Amendment I (no prohibition on free exercise of religion)  
Amendment I (petition for redress of grievances)

2. Michael plans to publish an annual yearbook about famous people and their most embarrassing adventures throughout the year. All of the embarrassing adventures sound believable but are all total lies. Michael knows that his stories are untrue and hurtful but doesn't care because he wants to get rich and become a famous person too. One celebrity catches wind of Michael's plans and hires a private investigator, who doubles as a police officer, to search Michael's house for fake pictures and the manuscript so it can be destroyed. The private investigator was on duty when he searched Michael's home. Acceptable or not? What are Michael's rights? What are the celebrities' rights?

**Amendments:** Amendment I (freedom of speech and press)  
Amendment IV (unreasonable search and seizures)  
Right to Privacy

3. Susan likes guns and shoes. Every week for the next year, she plans to buy one pair of shoes and one gun that she will paint to match the shoes. Susan is 30 years old and lives in a small apartment with her husband and 12-year-old son. Because the apartment is getting crowded with so many previously purchased guns and shoes, Susan's husband asked her to store the new guns and shoes in the large truck of her pink Cadillac. Acceptable or not? What are Susan's rights? What rights does the general public have?

**Amendments:** Amendment II (right to bear arms)

4. Rick likes to write music and sing songs. He is a former American Idol finalist and Grammy nominee. In an interview, he once said that the secret to his success is to always let his creativity flow no matter where he is. Tonight Rick plans to see the premier showing of the most popular movie starring your favorite actors, and you happen to have tickets too. If Rick gets a new hit song inspiration during the movie, he will stand up and sing to let his creativity flow. You plan on protesting with your friends if he starts to sing. Acceptable or not? What are Rick's rights? What are your rights as an audience member?

**Amendments:** Amendment I (freedom of speech)  
Amendment I (right to peaceably assemble)

5. Tina recently inherited a nice restaurant from her uncle who suffered a fatal injury after he tripped over a blind person's guide dog just as he was pouring a very hot cup of coffee last year. To honor her uncle and prevent similar accidents, Tina posted a sign outside her restaurant that forbids anyone from bringing guide dogs into the restaurant. The local Association for the Blind protests Tina's sign. Acceptable or not? What are Tina's rights? What rights do people owning guide dogs have (be careful—the sign is very specific!)?

**Amendments:** Equal rights for those with disabilities  
Amendment I (right to peaceably assemble)

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION - Protection of Individual Rights in the Modern World**

### ***Looking forward and back***

This lesson comes after many lessons that explore the attainment and exercise of "rights" by individuals. At this point, the issue of how we balance individual rights should be discussed in the context of maintaining our collective health, safety, and welfare. Students should have some perspective upon the development of legal systems, and be able to defend their choices to elevate certain rights over others or to place the individual before society (and vice versa).

### ***Historical Background***

Students will have arrived in the post world-war "modern" era at this juncture. Core tenets of the U.S. Constitution serve as the only background necessary for the Legal Team to conduct this lesson.

(Bill of Rights Student Handout follows)

**Bill of Rights to the Constitution of the United States**

<p><b>Amendment I</b> Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.</p> <p><b>Amendment II</b> A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.</p> <p><b>Amendment III</b> No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.</p> <p><b>Amendment IV</b> The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.</p> <p><b>Amendment V</b> No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.</p>	<p><b>Amendment VI</b> In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.</p> <p><b>Amendment VII</b> In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.</p> <p><b>Amendment VIII</b> Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.</p> <p><b>Amendment IX</b> The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.</p> <p><b>Amendment X</b> The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.</p>
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