

WHAT AMENDMENT WAS VIOLATED?

Directions: Using your knowledge of the Bill of Rights, read each scenario below and uncover which amendment has been violated!

1. Jim was driving home one night after his basketball game when an officer pulled him over. The officer looked long and hard inside his car, then asked if Jim would open up his trunk. Jim said, "Do you have a warrant?" and the officer said, "no." Because of this, Jim told that officer that he would feel more comfortable if he did not search his trunk.

Was Jim correct? Why or why not?

2. Paul is arrested for insider trading; this is the illegal practice of trading on the stock market to make money with confidential information. Paul is sentenced to 15 years in prison, which is a fairly typical punishment for this crime. Paul has been in prison for 14 years and is nearing his release; a new judge has to grant his official release, but believes the earlier judge was too light on his punishment. He rules that Paul also has to pay a fine of \$500,000.

What amendment might Paul argue was just violated? Why?

3. Angelina is furious over her city's latest attempt to cover up a major waste of taxpayer money. As a result, the city has refused to allow town meetings on the subject. Angelina begins to collect signatures from local citizens who agree with her disgust in her local government. The city's refusal to allow town meetings and Angelina's effort to collect signatures are both protected by the Bill of Rights.

Which amendment will Angelina cite as her support?

4. Joseph was driving around town when he was abruptly stopped by a police officer. The officer informed Joseph that he was being arrested for a burglary that had happened the night before. Joseph claimed to know nothing about the incident, but the police officer arrested him anyway and placed him in jail. Joseph was sentenced by the judge to 3 years in prison, however Joseph never had a trial to prove his innocence. What amendment might Joseph argue was just violated? Why?

5. Kevin, the star football player, was walking home late one night after practice when he decided to take a shortcut. He walked through his neighbor's backyard, who called the police on him for trespassing. Kevin was found guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. What amendment might Kevin argue was just violated? Why?

6. The federal government tells the state of Wyoming that they must adopt new standards into their high school classrooms. Wyoming's Department of Education says, "No, the states are in charge of setting their education standards." Which amendment would Wyoming cite? Why?

7. Lydia made a bad decision one night and decided to rob a bank. In the process, the bank manager had a heart attack, died on the scene, and Lydia was charged with murder. The judge immediately declared Lydia guilty of murder without looking at the evidence or without providing a jury. What amendment might Lydia argue was violated? Why?

8. Susan was walking through a shopping mall when an officer stopped her and demanded to search her purse. Susan refused the search and was immediately arrested. She said that she had a right to "privacy." Which amendment is she referring to? How do you know?

9. Thomas, the editor of the school newspaper, recently approved an article that detailed the unhealthy nature of the food served by the cafeteria staff. To avoid embarrassment, the principal tried to prevent the news report from published. Under what amendment did Thomas believe he had a right to do this?

10. Jim is visiting the home of one of his co-workers, Randy, and he notices that Randy has a gun safe (a secure place to store firearms). Jim panics and asks his co-worker why he would ever dream of owning a gun. Randy explains that he has a gun for two reasons: he is an avid hunter and he enjoys practicing his Constitutional rights. What amendment would Randy cite in his defense?

11.) Julie was accused of stealing from the local grocery store. The attorney in the case demanded that Julie testify in court about her whereabouts on the evening of March 5th at 7pm. She claims that she does not have testify against herself. What amendment would she use?

12.) James is sitting in a crowded movie theater and tries to "prank" all those in attendance. He yells "FIRE" as loud as he can, then pulls the fire alarm. Everyone storms out in a frenzy. One young woman is hurt in the process and needs medical attention. Afterwards, she sues James for his actions. He says, he has the "freedom of speech" and therefore cannot be punished. Which amendment has he incorrectly understood?

13.) Tavion walked into his home after a long day at school to see 15 police officers — 5 were making dinner, 6 were playing video games, and 4 were unpacking their bags in his bedroom! When he inquired, they told him they were moving in! What amendment was violated?

14.) Layla is arrested because she has overdue parking tickets. The judge orders that Layla's trial start in 8 years, and she will need to remain in prison until then. Which amendment would Layla argue was being violated?

15.) There was a recent fire that took place at the famous Main Street bakery. Caleb happened to be walking by the bakery at the same time the fire broke out. Several people said they saw Caleb set the building ablaze, but Caleb was prevented from questioning the witnesses in open trial. Which amendment may have been violated?

MAKE YOUR OWN SCENARIO :

Make up your own scenario. Make it detailed, clear, and clever. Try to stump your classmates on which of the Bill of Rights was violated.

