



THE BILL OF RIGHTS: OPINION

The First & Fourth Amendments

When the leaders of the newly formed United States finished writing the Constitution, their work wasn't done. The thirteen states had to agree to it. The thirteen states wanted to add a set of amendments describing the rights of all people. Ten rights, called the **Bill of Rights**, were added to the Constitution in 1791.

Directions: Read about the First Amendment and the Fourth Amendment below, then answer the prompts that follow. Be sure to use the **Vocabulary Key**, at the end of each section, to look up the highlighted words that may be unfamiliar to you.

PART I: THE FIRST AMENDMENT

“ 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.”

1. People have the right to practice any kind of religion.

Is it important to you to live in a country that allows people to practice any faith? Explain.

2. People have the right to say or write what they want without government review.

Why is it important to live in a country with free speech? How does this impact you?

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The First & Fourth Amendments *cont.*

3. People have the right to form groups and protest policies they don't agree with.

Is it important to you to live in a country that allows people to disagree with leaders and fellow citizens? Why or why not?



Vocabulary Key: First Amendment

abridge: to shorten without removing basic contents

assemble: to gather (things or persons) into a group

grievance: an injustice considered a cause for complaint or the complaint resulting from such an injustice

prohibit: to forbid (an action) by authority

redress: compensation or reparation; amends

Source: *Wordsmythe.net*

4. Picture This:

Now that you have read about the First Amendment, how would you illustrate it?


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The First & Fourth Amendments *cont.*

PART II: THE FOURTH AMENDMENT

“ 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.”

I. Why do you think this amendment is important? Explain below.



Vocabulary Key: Fourth Amendment

affirmation: the act of firmly declaring or maintaining something as true

seizures: a taking, esp. of property, by legal force

violate: to break or breach (a law, contract, covenant, or the like)

Source: Wordsmythe.net

2. Picture This:

Now that you have read about the Fourth Amendment, how would you illustrate it?

We the People