

WARM-UP

DIRECTIONS:

Read the text of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as it refers to speech.

Read each of the hypothetical situations and decide whether or not the government can limit or punish the speech contained in each of the situations.

Place an "X" in the box that best matches the amount you think the government can limit the speech.

- ★ 1 means the government may not limit or punish the speech.
- ★ 2 means that the government can limit or punish the speech under rare conditions.
- ★ 3 means you are unsure when and how the government can limit or punish the speech, but you think there may be good arguments on both side.
- ★ 4 means that the government can usually limit or punish this type of speech.
- ★ 5 means that the government can always limit and punish this type of speech.

"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH."

| HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| A person burns an American flag in protest of government policies. | | | | | |
| A person creates a website asking people to support an anti-war agenda. | | | | | |
| A person writes and publishes an essay about the superiority of his or her race. | | | | | |
| A person criticizes the US President on a blog site about public policy. | | | | | |
| A person makes up malicious lies about a political candidate during an election. | | | | | |
| A public school student criticizes the principal and teachers on social media. | | | | | |
| A public school student starts a website for students to say hateful things about other students. | | | | | |
| A student threatens violence against his school on social media in the form of a poem. | | | | | |
| A person posts online that someone should assassinate Supreme Court Justices. | | | | | |
| A person creates a pro-terrorist website that asks people to join terror groups in overthrowing the US government. | | | | | |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | | |