STUDENT HANDOUT 1

Ranking Rights and Freedoms

Below is a list of sixteen freedoms and rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. Choose ten of the items on this list that are most important to you and that you absolutely would not be willing to give up. Keep in mind, however, that the items you leave off your list will no longer be guaranteed to you. After you have selected your "top ten," answer the questions that follow.

_____ 1. freedom of religion
_____ 2. freedom of speech
_____ 3. freedom of press
_____ 4. freedom of assembly
_____ 5. freedom of petition
_____ 6. right to keep and bear arms
_____ 7. security against unreasonable searches and seizures
_____ 8. probable cause necessary for issuance of a search warrant
_____ 9. indictment by a grand jury necessary before being made to answer for a capital crime
_____ 10. cannot be tried twice for the same crime (double jeopardy)
_____ 11. cannot be made to testify against yourself
_____ 12. cannot be deprived of life, liberty, and property without due process of law
_____ 13. must be compensated for private property taken for public use
_____ 14. right to a fair and speedy jury trial
_____ 15. cannot be held in jail by excessive bail
_____ 16. cannot be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment

Write a brief answer to each of the following questions. Use the back of this handout if you need more space.

1. Which one of your top ten is most important to you? Why?

2. Which one of your top ten is least important to you? Why?

3. Which one of the six not on your list was most difficult to give up? Why?

4. Which one of the six not on your list was easiest to give up? Why?

5. Write a paragraph discussing the process you used and the difficulties you had in arriving at your top ten list. Tell how you ultimately made the tough choices as you were deciding the last few items on your list.

ON BACK

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