Bill of Rights

**Directions: You are a Supreme Court Justice. As a Supreme Court Justice, you are expected to interpret the Bill of Rights. Interpret the following Amendments in your own words.**

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| **Amendment** | **Translation** |
| **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. |  |
| **The Second Amendment**  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. |  |
| **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. |  |
| **The Sixth Amendment**  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. |  |
| **The Eighth Amendment**  Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. |  |

Pick one Amendment and explain how it limits the power of the federal government.

Bill of Rights in the News

**Directions:** The following quotations are excerpts from recent news articles. Identify the right that is being tested. Explain your stance. Keep in mind constitutional cases are not about right and or wrong but whether the right being tested represents a reasonable restriction in the interest of public safety.

**Headline 1**

“A federal judge stripped away a key element of Chicago's gun ordinance, ruling that it is unconstitutional to prohibit licensed gun stores from operating in the city” (1/7/14).

**Right: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Your Stance:**

**Headline 2**

“The Kentucky county clerk who made herself a national celebrity by refusing to issue same-sex marriage licenses was jailed Thursday for contempt of court” (9/3/15).

**Right: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Your Stance:**

**Headline 3**

“School authorities may require a student or his or her parent/guardian to provide a password…in order to gain access to his/her account or profile on a social networking website if school authorities have reasonable cause to believe that a student's account on a social networking site contains evidence [of cyberbullying]” (1/20/15).

**Right: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Your Stance:**

**Headline 4**

“A student has been banned from displaying the Confederate flag on his truck while on school grounds” (11/24/13).

**Right: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Your Stance:**