

Assignment #4- Constitutional Rights & The CJ System

Goals: Students will examine the Bill of Rights and explore which constitutional rights have the biggest impact on their rights. Additionally, students will be able to apply constitutional rights to scenarios pertaining to the criminal justice system.

Directions: These are “fillable” forms. PLEASE be sure to do a “save as” on the documents, then submit them as attachments, so that you don’t lose your work! (If you just start typing, you will not be able to save it). You should also be able to use the highlight feature for the scenario. If you don’t have the applicable programs, you can mark up the document on your phone using the “mark-up” feature, or just type it out in bullet points, if that makes it easier for you.

You are going to complete two activities pertaining to the Bill of Rights. In particular, we are concerned about the amendments relative to governmental intrusions of privacy (searches and seizures), the rights concerning procedural protections, the rights guaranteed for defendants, and Due Process.

Activity #1: Follow instructions on the handout. Use this link for a “copy” of the Bill of Rights: <https://billofrightsinitiative.org/founding-documents/bill-of-rights/> Reading the added orange links are not necessary, but they may be useful for your assignment and for a better understanding of constitutional rights and the criminal justice system.

Activity #2: Read the scenario and highlight the places where Johnny’s rights were violated. (However you want to do this is fine. If you need to copy, paste, and highlight in a word document, that’s fine too, just be sure to submit as an attachment). Then, identify these areas (even if you just number them in the document, you can make a numbered list in a word document). **Be sure to identify at least 5 violations.**

- Identify WHICH amendment is being violated and
- HOW it was violated.

You will be submitting:

- Completed Activity #1 Handout
- Highlighted Activity #2 Handout
- 1 page write-up with your responses from Activity #2 (which amendment is violated and how), with a numbered list or bullet points (no actual essay required here)

Name:

ACTIVITY #1

HANDOUT A
THE VALUE OF RIGHTS

Directions: Read over the Bill of Rights and the rights protected in each amendment. Then think about which rights are most important to you. Choose five that you believe are the most important, and list them in the chart below. Then answer the questions below.

Right	Amendment
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

1. Why did you select these rights?
2. How would life change without the other rights?
3. Why is it important that we have all of these rights?

Activity #2

HANDOUT D

LIFE WITHOUT RIGHTS FOR THE ACCUSED

Directions: Read the story and underline the sections where Johnny's rights are violated.

Johnny Q. Public dozed off to sleep while watching a crime show on TV. Suddenly there was a noise on his porch and then, "BAM!" Five men in police uniforms stood in his living room with guns pointed at him.

The captain shouted to the other officers, "You, go search the basement. You, search the garage. You, search the kitchen!"

"Wh- wh- where's your search warrant?" asked Johnny nervously.

"We don't need a warrant!" replied the police captain.

After searching his house, the captain announced, "Johnny Q. Public, you are under arrest."

Johnny was booked and led to a prison cell. He wondered what he had been arrested for. "Guard, why I have been arrested?" Johnny asked each day. But the guards said they didn't know.

Months went by. Finally Johnny was told that if he could post one million dollars bail, he could get out of jail until his trial. "I don't have that kind of money. Can I talk to an attorney?" He'd beg, but the answer was always, "No."

A year passed, and finally Johnny was transported from Virginia to Pennsylvania for trial. He found out that he was charged with shoplifting a t-shirt. As he entered the courtroom, he saw an empty jury box. He asked, "Where's my jury?" He was told he couldn't have a jury because judges were better at knowing when someone was guilty.

Then the district attorney said, "The prosecution calls Johnny Q. Public to the stand." Johnny didn't want to testify. But he was told he would be sent back to jail if he did not. Johnny put on the best defense he could. By some miracle, he was found not guilty.

A month later, Johnny was arrested again on the same charge. He had to prepare for another trial. The prosecution had new evidence this time. Johnny wanted to question the prosecution's witnesses, but the judge would not let him.

When it was time for Johnny to present his case, Johnny said, "I'd like to call my neighbor to the stand. He knows that I was at home alone that night." But the judge said, "Your neighbor didn't want to get involved, and so he would not agree to testify. There's nothing we can do."

Johnny was found guilty. The judge asked Johnny to stand while he read the sentence: "Johnny Q. Public, since this is your first offense, you have been sentenced to five years in a maximum security prison." Johnny felt dizzy and sat down. He thought, "I wish there were something that could protect me from these abuses!"