Edward Snowden leaked secret information revealing that the NSA has been crossing boundaries in the process they gather information about citizens. Many people argue that his actions of releasing this information to the public were treacherous and dangerous. We, on the other hand, believe it was in fact patriotic and morally correct for him to do so.

The National Security Agency, otherwise known as the NSA, violated one of our most important rights - the right to privacy. *“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable search and seizures, shall not be violated...”* so states the 4th Amendment. The NSA stepped in and infringed on our legal rights and, even worse, did so without our consent or knowledge of such actions. The people have every right to know who has our information, where it is processed, so on and so forth. The people also have every right to deny giving this information out unless a warrant is issued. Therefore, the NSA’s actions are technically illegal, giving Snowden the moral obligation to release this information to the people.

Many argue that Snowden compromised the safety of the United States, giving terrorists and drug dealers an advantage in knowing how we gather our information. While we find this somewhat true, we must remember that the NSA compromised each and every one of us by storing our information in their databases. No system is completely secure, and any country could hack in and obtain what we believe is safe. This could cause a chain of events wreaking havoc among the nation. Bank accounts, phone numbers, contacts, personal information, all at the mercy of another government.

Also, we mustn’t forget Snowden himself. He, being a low level NSA worker, followed standard procedure, and notified NSA bases throughout the United States of the lines they were crossing. When most told him to stay quiet about it, Snowden risked his comfort, reputation, safety and *life* by leaking the information. He received no monetary gain, and soon became the most wanted man on the planet. What he did was daring and patriotic. If Snowden had not reported this information, we as citizens would be completely blind to the invasion of our privacy by the NSA. It is a tradeoff of temporarily revealing national information to the long-term benefit of American citizen privacy. Ultimately we believe it is more important to be informed and aware that our rights are being violated and realize the danger emerging in all our lives. It is the people’s right to know. If not, who will draw the limits?

To conclude, we agree with the actions of Edward Snowden. We have rights that shall be given, information that shall be secured and moral obligation to follow. The final question is, would we have done the same? We can only hope to have been as courageous as him.