The question that this short essay will attempt to answer is whether a government can protect citizens’ rights and, at the same time, protect their lives. We say that it can, but really this is not the government’s responsibility because it is our own decision as humans and citizens whether to obey the existing laws, and we face negative consequences if we make the decision not to obey them. Obeying laws will most likely help to secure our fellow humans’ safety.

With the development and increasing availability of technology, this question becomes tougher. For example, if one has just gotten out of jail for murder, he or she is not supposed to own a firearm. But now, one can easily purchase a weapon off of a website. We believe that both the purchaser and the seller should be prosecuted. We say this because the purchaser should know not to purchase a firearm, in person or online, and the seller should know not to sell one as well.

The government must, on occasion, take away citizens’ cyber-freedoms or rights for certain reasons. For example, the internet can be used for cyberbullying, harassment, and many other negative things. Cyberbullying is a major problem on social networks. It is so common that it sometimes drives people to the point of committing suicide or homicide. Not all people take bullying lightly, so when it becomes serious, the government should make a law against cyberbullying, and it should also pass the bills that are currently being voted on. One example of why the government might need to step in and take away some of our freedoms is because of what happened on 9/11. After this happened, we adopted a system where one could not get through an airport without being heavily searched. The simple reason why this happened was to maintain the safety of the US so that things like 9/11 won’t happen again. Now, we are more vulnerable today then we were years ago to a cyber-terrorist attack, and the government may need to restrict some public rights to protect our safety.

However, there are rights that should not be violated. The Bill of Rights, although they are only the first ten amendments in the Constitution, represents some of them. The first amendment must be inviolable, because one should always be able to state his or her opinion, and pursue life, liberty, and happiness. This is the idea that American was founded on. If this amendment was changed, even to protect our safety, there would be no Americans left to follow it, because there would be no America anymore. Rights like the first amendment are what separate a civil human race from animals.

The government should, on occasion, take charge and actually take away some of our freedom and rights if it is necessary to protect our safety. It is definitely not a good idea to take away our rights for every threat that comes around, but sometimes it must happen.