Is there a way for the government to protect our lives *and* our freedom? While the government's duty is to protect both our life and our rights, is it possible to completely protect American citizens’ lives without sacrificing some of their privacy?  We believe there are times when government finds it necessary to sacrifice privacy for safety.

People generally feel negatively about a friend or parent secretly looking at private computer communication.  Because the unintended reader is familiar with situations and people mentioned, the fear of consequences hits close to home.  Hurt feelings, misinterpretations, causing conflict where it did not already exit are all real possibilities.  The idea of the government looking into personal cyberspace isn't as creepy. Since they use this information to catch criminals, helping protect the citizens of the nation, they should have access to anything done on a computer.  People agree that in order to catch criminals this is necessary, but that *only* the government should have this sort of access.

Though protection is a positive outcome of sacrificing privacy, there should be some limits to protect citizens from the government abusing its power. If there was ever an imminent danger to American lives, the government should be able to get into anything. To provide for the safety of Americans, even things most people consider extremely private, like bank accounts, should be accessible. In other cases without that urgency, the government should only be able to look at things that are public, like social media and blogs. If there is no sense of urgency, and the government wants to get into private documents and houses, they must acquire a warrant.  This is already addressed in the Fourth Amendment.   However, this should be extended to personal cyberspace to meet the needs of people today.

Basic human rights should always be kept sacred. The Bill of Rights in itself proclaims that Americans are, “endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights.” The first amendment, the Freedom of Speech,  is most relevant to cyber security. To every citizen, being able to say whatever they want on the internet should always be kept a very secure right.

When given the choice, certain freedoms are a better sacrifice than human lives.  While having freedom and life is important, that freedom needs to be taken in order to provide us with safety.  When lives hang in the balance, giving up a few rights must be necessary.