The Privacy of the People

The Fourth Amendment of *The Constitution* states that one should be secure in their home and in other personal effects. A citizen of the United States of America should be guaranteed a right to security and liberty while maintaining a sense of freedom and independence from the government. The law enforcement arms of the government should not have free and total access to our personal information. Instead, a warrant should be issued in any situation that involves entry of an American citizen’s personal property. In essence it is this court’s belief that the Fourth Amendment provides an individual citizen with protection of self, of property, and of personal information including thoughts and ideas.

It is our assertion that the first job of the United States government is to protect the populace. Often, in the pursuit of this mission government officials blur the line between what is acceptable for them to access freely and what is prohibited by the constitution. The government should have the authority to access e-mails that are 180 days old or older, as well as the authority to retrieve emails and texts from a personal cell phone, but only after obtaining a warrant.

If an individual has purposely or inadvertently left open their e-mails, we believe that the government should still have to cross the proper channels in order to view or use these as evidence. However, it is also this Courts’ contention that it is absolutely necessary for the government to first obtain a warrant. Thus it is essential that probable cause has been proven and that the individual is confirmed to be highly suspicious.

In our American society a large amount of people carry cell phones and other electronic devices which can be tracked and verify a citizen’s whereabouts. In essence technology has evolved to such a degree that spying on individuals is easier than ever. However, the ease in which you can obtain information about an individual does not prohibit the abuse of this technology. It is vital that the government coupled with law enforcement maintain a sense of integrity and not stray from the mandates asserted in the Fourth Amendment.

In the Fourth Amendment it avows that “the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures” is assured. In *The Federalist Essays* by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison it declares that, “In framing a government which is administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to be controlled by the governed; and next oblige it to control itself.” Hence, the Fourth Amendment must adhere to this calling and provide citizens with a sense of security and liberty that offers a sense of personal privacy by obtaining warrants before searching a citizen’s personal property or effects.