

Name: _____

Bill of Rights Scenarios

Directions: Read the following hypothetical situations and decide whether each one contains a violation of the Bill of Rights. For each, circle *violation* or *no violation* and then write the number of the amendment and the appropriate phrases from the amendment that relate to the situation.

1. A 20 year old college student starts his own newspaper, which often prints articles making fun of the local mayor. The mayor is angry and gets his aides to take the papers off the stand before they can be distributed.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Violation | No violation | Amendment support: |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|

2. A woman is being tried for murder. The prosecuting attorney forces her to take the stand and testify.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Violation | No violation | Amendment support: |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|

3. A student wears a button to school urging people to vote for a certain candidate for President of the United States. Some other students don't like the candidate and ask the principal to force the student to take off the button. The principle refuses to tell the student to remove the button.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Violation | No violation | Amendment support: |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|

4. A dentist is being sued for \$500,000. He wants a jury to hear the case but the judge refuses his request.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Violation | No violation | Amendment support: |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|

5. A young woman is being tried for treason. She is accused of selling plans for building a nuclear weapon to Iran. The judge believes it would be dangerous to let the public hear her ideas. He refuses to allow anyone to view the trial.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Violation | No violation | Amendment support: |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|

6. A group of teenagers gather quietly on a street corner. Neighbors complain and ask the police to arrest them for getting together as a group. The police refuse.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Violation | No violation | Amendment support: |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|

7. A town needs more land to build a new elementary school. A woman's property is needed but she wants to keep it. The town forces her to sell and gives her twice the property's actual value. She sues to get her land back.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Violation | No violation | Amendment support: |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|

8. The government tries a man for murder and loses the case. A jury says he is innocent. The district attorney who prosecuted the case is mad and promises to keep trying him until they get a jury to convict him. The defendant thinks this is unfair.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Violation | No violation | Amendment support: |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|

9. The Postmaster General of the United States has a cross and a nativity scene installed at all Post Offices throughout the country during Christmas time. Government funds are being used to purchase the cross and nativity scene. The mayor of a predominantly Jewish town demands that the cross and nativity scene be removed from her town.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Violation | No violation | Amendment support: |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|

10. A man living on a quiet residential street erects a giant billboard on his front lawn. The billboard has neon lights advertising a new breakfast cereal that the man invented. The city has zoning laws against this type of sign in a residential neighborhood and demands that it be removed.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Violation | No violation | Amendment support: |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|