

Applying the Bill of Rights

Directions: Refer to the **Concept Chart: Understanding the Bill of Rights**. For each of the scenarios below, write a complete sentence explaining which right has been violated in the scenario, and then name the constitutional amendment that protects the right.

1. Juanita lives near a factory that puts foul-smelling smoke in the air. Juanita and her neighbors call a meeting at Juanita's house to discuss what they can do about the smoke. However, the police block the entrance to the home and tell people that they do not have the right to hold a meeting.

Right violated: _____

Amendment that protects the right: _____

2. The government lacked money to support the nation's military forces. To save money, General Pulp ordered that troops be placed in the homes of people living close to military bases. Midge lived next to an army base, and two soldiers moved into her house, even though she did not want them there.

Right violated: _____

Amendment that protects the right: _____

3. Brendan is accused of armed robbery and given a trial. The jury finds Brendan not guilty. The next day the prosecutor decides that the verdict was not correct, and he orders Brendan arrested and tried for the crime again.

Right violated: _____

Amendment that protects the right: _____

4. Mike is in his house watching television when two police officers knock at the door. They accuse Mike of having stolen property, enter the house, and take several things that they say do not belong to Mike. When he asks if the police officers have permission to take his things, they just laugh and leave with the property.

Right violated: _____

Amendment that protects the right: _____

5. In a political demonstration during the Republican National Convention in Texas in 1989, protesting the policies of President Ronald Reagan and of certain businesses based in Dallas, Texas, Gregory Lee Johnson soaked an American flag with gasoline and set it on fire. No one was hurt, but some witnesses said they were seriously offended, and Johnson was arrested and charged with breaking the law.

Right violated: _____

Amendment that protects the right: _____

6. In 1961, a California law made it a crime for a person to be addicted to drugs and required a minimum sentence of 90 days in jail if a person is charged with the crime. Lawrence Robinson was convicted under the law and sentenced to at least 90 days in jail. Robinson claimed that the 90-day jail sentence was cruel and unusual punishment.

Right violated: _____

Amendment that protects the right: _____

7. William Malloy was arrested for gambling in 1959 by Hartford, Connecticut police. After pleading guilty, he was sentenced to one year in jail and fined \$500, but the sentence was suspended after 90 days and Malloy was placed on two years probation. Sixteen months later, a Connecticut Superior Court ordered Malloy to testify about gambling and other criminal activities in Hartford County. When Malloy refused, on the grounds that it might incriminate him on other charges, he was put in jail and held until willing to answer questions.

Right violated: _____

Amendment that protects the right: _____

8. A man named Parker was arrested and put on trial for second-degree murder in Oregon in 1966. During the trial, the bailiff who was assigned to watch over the jury, made statements about Parker to some of the jurors. Some jurors overheard him say: "Oh, that wicked fellow, he is guilty," and to another juror, "If there is anything wrong [in finding him guilty] the Supreme Court will correct it." Parker was found guilty of murder by ten votes of a 12-person jury. Parker argued that the bailiff's comments prevented him from a fair trial.

Right violated: _____

Amendment that protects the right: _____

9. In 2007, the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.) passed legislation banning the registration of handguns, requiring licenses for all pistols, and requiring that all legal firearms be kept unloaded and disassembled or trigger locked. A security guard named Dick Anthony Heller sued the District of Columbia claiming that this law violated his rights.

Right violated: _____

Amendment that protects the right: _____

10. "I am a Buddhist, which means that I practice the religion of Buddhism. I just moved to a new town that has banned all religion. The Sherriff has threatened to arrest me if I don't take an oath against religion."

Right violated: _____

Amendment that protects the right: _____

11. "I was arrested 12 months ago. I've been accused of speeding, but I haven't been given an opportunity to defend myself against the charge. I think that they're just going to leave me in this jail forever!"

Right violated: _____

Amendment that protects the right: _____