Constitution USA: It’s A Free Country Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Video Guide – Aug 20, 2015

As you watch this video, keep in mind the following essential concepts:

* Governments evolve just like people grow.
* The interpretation of America’s founding documents has defined and redefined our rights over time.
* The personal values of people can motivate their political interests.
* Essential documents lay the foundation for government.

*Segment 1: It’s a Free Country: Know Your Rights!*

1. Who is the Bill of Rights supposed to be protecting us from? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Give three reasons why a Bill of Rights was not originally in the Constitution?
3. Why do we have a Bill of Rights in our constitution today?
4. What are considered the “Big 3” freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution?
5. Quickly list the right that each amendment guaranteed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Amendment** | **Right** |
| Amendment 1 |  |
| Amendment 2 |  |
| Amendment 3 |  |
| Amendment 4 |  |
| Amendment 5 |  |
| Amendment 6 |  |
| Amendment 7 |  |
| Amendment 8 |  |
| Amendment 9 |  |
| Amendment 10 |  |

1. Why are the 9th and 10th amendments particularly important?
2. How free are we?

*Segment 2: Protesting Funerals – 1st Amendment Put to the Test*

1. Is all speech protected? Should offensive speech be protected? Why or Why not?
2. Why did the soldier’s father sue the Westboro Baptist Church? What two rights were conflicting? What was the SC Decision? What was the final outcome?
3. What is sedition and when was it made illegal in the U.S.? How do you think we should balance freedom of speech with protecting citizens from imminent danger?
4. Give examples of protected and unprotected speech according to how courts have interpreted the 1st Amendment over the course of history?
5. What is the remedy for free speech according to Louis Brandeis?

*Segment 3: Right to a Fair Trial:*

1. Who insures our rights are protected? What did Gideon do to insure his 6th amendment right?
2. Why would someone need a lawyer and what is the responsibility of a court appointed lawyer?

*Segment 4: Battles of School Prayer*

1. What are the arguments for and against taking down a school banner with a prayer in public school?
2. What exactly does the first amendment say about religion? (two parts)
3. Does prayer have a place in public school? Who should win? Majority or minority? Why does the video advocate for the protection of minority rights?
4. Why is religion part of our government? Is there really a “wall of separation?”

*Segment 5: Eminent Domain: How can you take my house?*

1. What does eminent domain mean (Hint: what two conditions have to be present in order for the government to take your private property?) Where is it in the Constitution?
2. Who was supposed to benefit from taking that land? In this case, did the Constitution protect the minority or the majority?

*Segment 6: Rights are Changing?*

1. How do we keep the Constitution relevant and alive?
2. Why has the interpretation of our rights changed over time?

*Segment 7: Privacy*

1. Under what conditions can you be searched without a warrant?
2. Give examples of how people can dig into your privacy. Do we have a reasonable expectation of privacy online? Do you agree that “technology is putting cracks in the Bill of Rights?”
3. America isn’t perfect:
   1. Sometimes you have to fight to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Sometimes rights \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_when we don’t see eye to eye
   3. Through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we can make our country better.