

Bill of Rights Scenarios

Directions: Read each scenario. After reading the scenario, specifically describe the amendment and the reasons why the scenario was a violation (or not) of our Bill of Rights. Use complete sentences.

Scenario 1

Tom, an eighteen-year-old college student, is arrested for stealing a classroom's exam papers and selling it on the Internet. When she appears before the judge, she asks for a lawyer to help defend her. The judge tells her if she is smart enough to be in college, she is smart enough to defend herself. Besides, she is not being charged with a crime, so the stakes are not very high.

Scenario 2

A neighbor is suing the town because some of the town's "landfill" sites used during a hurricane. The neighbor wants the town to pay \$100 million for their land equipment. Mr. Town requests that a jury be chosen to hear this case. The judge says it is not necessary since the amount of the request is so small. The town hands down a \$100 million fine.

Scenario 3

Caroline is arrested for displaying a crude sign from a neighborhood conservative group. As a rule, she is found guilty. The judge decides that the appropriate punishment is to cut off Caroline's hands so that she will not be able to display signs.

Scenario 4

Mr. Reynolds, an artist/teacher, signs the door of his home and they are found signs from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms outside. They inform him that certain provisions of a new federal law allow them to conduct his office so that he may not engage in criminal activities as per against the United States government. They have no evidence that he is connected to any such activities.

Scenario 5

Your science teacher takes the class to recycle paper to correct last night's homework. Your friend, James, refuses to do so and is sent to the principal.

Scenario 6

Tom, a fourteen-year-old student, decides to protest the war in Iraq. He brings a T-shirt to school with a picture of the White House and the caption "Support of Islamic Jihad Terrorism" His principal pulls Tom aside and asks him not to wear the shirt again because it is disruptive to the learning environment. Tom wears it the next week and is suspended from school for three days.