

Constitutional Amendments Scenarios

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Direction: Read each scenario, then write the amendment number that each scenario violates. *If the amendment is part of the Bill of Rights, check the box next to the answer.*

1. The New York Times prints a damaging, yet true, article about the President's personal life. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shuts the newspaper company down saying it jeopardized national security.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

2. President Obama's inauguration happened on January 3, 2009.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

3. In order to reduce the debt, the United States government decides to house male soldiers in houses belonging to married couples with no children.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

4. Recently arrived immigrants from Mongolia work at a local factory and are given no pay. The owner refuses to pay them and tells them that if they quit, he will hurt their extended family back in Asia.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

5. A voting registrar refuses to give a woman of Middle Eastern descent a ballot because she doesn't look "American." The registrar also figures that since she is a woman, she probably doesn't understand politics anyways.

a. Violates the _____ AND _____ Amendment.

6. Congress feels like they have done such a good job for the country that they decide to raise their salary \$100,000. The new salary goes into effect immediately.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

7. Will Howard, an infamous bank robber, was found not guilty by a jury for robbing a local bank. Howard was released from custody and later interviewed by reporters. He brazenly admitted to them that he committed the crime and got away with it. Police immediately find and arrest Will Howard. He is tried again for the same crime and found guilty.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

8. Sam Webster arrives home one day from a hunting trip to find agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) on his porch. They immediately confiscate his gun because a new neighbor complained that she didn't want her children living in a neighborhood where guns are permitted.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

9. John Vincent is suing a former roommate for not paying his last month's rent of \$250. Vincent asks for a jury to hear the case, but the judge refuses saying the amount he is suing for is so petty that it isn't worth the hassle.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

10. Marianne Henrietta is arrested for being involved in a double homicide. When she is brought before the judge, she asks for a lawyer to defend her. The judge refuses her request saying that there is no point in appointing a lawyer because everyone knows she is guilty.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

11. A group of college students go to a local store where they steal a bag of Doritos, two frozen pizzas, and a 12-pack of Diet Coke for a party they are hosting later that night. They are instantly caught stealing on a security camera and arrested by a local police officer. The students (who are defended by a lawyer) are tried by a jury of their peers and found guilty of theft. They are then sentenced to have their right hands cut off so they won't ever steal again.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

12. Eighteen-year old high school student Jake Stuart goes to the polling place to vote in a local election. The voting registrar refuses to hand him a ballot saying that since he is still in high school, he has to be accompanied by a parent in order to vote.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

13. A local labor union sends a letter about improving working conditions at their job to the President. Several union members sign the document. The President orders those who signed the document to be immediately arrested for rebellion.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

14. A couple from Ireland (with valid visas allowing the husband to attend Stanford University) is living in the United States. The pregnant wife goes into labor and delivers her baby boy in a Palo Alto, California, hospital. The government refuses to give the baby American citizenship because his parents are Irish and are only here temporarily.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

15. Stephanie Linder refuses to pay her income taxes because she does not agree with how her tax dollars are being used by Congress.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

16. The state of Alaska decides to have the state legislature choose its senators. Alaskan leaders figure that since people live so far from the polling places, this new situation will just make things less of a hassle.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

17. Every day at the beginning of class, Mrs. Smith reads an excerpt from the Bible and says a prayer with her students. A Muslim student objects to participating in this practice because he says it is against his beliefs. Mrs. Smith takes away his participation points.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

18. John Hinckley, Jr., attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in 1981. If his attempt had succeeded, Secretary of State Alexander Haig would have immediately become president.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

19. It's the year 2008. George W. Bush decides to run for a third presidential term and wins.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

20. Congress shuts down the Jack Daniel's Distillery in Lynchburg, Tennessee, because congressional leaders feel like alcohol leads to violence, poverty, and a corruption of moral values in America.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

21. Joanne Wagner wakes up one morning to the police kicking in her door. They tell her since the neighborhood was considered an "unsafe" area, they decided to do drug inspections on random houses.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.

22. Since the American government is in so much debt, congressional leaders feel it is only fair to pass a law that makes voters pay for the printing of their individual ballot. Voters are required to pay ten cents at the polling place in order to vote.

a. Violates the _____ Amendment.