**First Amendment – Campus Free Speech assignment**

Name and date (3 pts):

Instructions: Create space in the document below, and type or write your answers. When you are done, submit your work as an email attachment.

(20 questions, 100 possible points).

Important! Preparation: Carefully read the First Amendment, read the “lecture outline”, and watch the videos.

Part 1: First Amendment

1. Write out the entire First Amendment.
2. Who does the First Amendment "limit"?
3. What does the First Amendment prevent? What does it stop? Be specific. Use your own words. It prevents/stops several things.
4. Does the First Amendment in any way limit citizens from speaking in public? Read it carefully...
5. Does it limit citizens from "offending" another person?
6. Does it limit citizens from “criticizing” others?
7. Does it limit you from attacking the 'morality' or 'ethics' of another person?
8. Does it limit citizens from criticizing the President of the United States, including calling him/her vile things which you know aren't even true?
9. Does it limit or prevent newspapers and Television News (CNN, Fox, MSNBC, etc) from heavily criticizing politicians every single day - including past, current, and future Presidents - just so they can attract more audience and raise advertising revenue? Read it carefully…
10. Does the First Amendment limit you, in any way, shape, or form? Read it carefully…

Part 2: The Constitution

What did we learn in class? The U.S. Constitution doesn’t limit citizens from doing or saying things! It doesn’t even address what citizens can and can’t do! It limits the Government… THIS IS THE RADICAL IDEA behind the U.S. Constitution.

1. What event(s) led up to the Revolt/Revolution in 1776? Elaborate…
2. What were the “Articles of Confederation”? State the applicable years, and give a brief background.
3. In what year was the Constitutional Convention held?
4. Specifically, what are the two “radical ideas” that the framers had when creating the U.S. Constitution? Read the lecture notes…

Name them… and explain them in your own words.

* 1. Idea 1:
  2. Idea 2:

1. Finish filling-out the table (first read the lecture notes)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Branch of government | Applicable body (or person) | What they do |
| Executive |  |  |
|  | Congress |  |
|  |  | Interpret the laws |

Part 3: Campus Free Speech

Freedom of Speech on college campuses is a hot issue right now! U.S. colleges & universities are supposed to be ‘bastions’ of free speech, where students have freedom to express different ideas.

However, different ideas sometimes “clash”; different viewpoints can create heated debate! In the process, people have their views challenged, and they can get offended and emotions flare!

1. Watch the video, “Students: 1st amendment shouldn’t protect offensive speech”. Summarize, in your own words, the main “theme” or “thread” of the students’ responses. Take your time…
2. Watch the video, “UNC Student Arrested….”.
   1. What did the sign say? What were the demonstrators doing?
   2. What did she do?
   3. Why did she do it? Try to explain the ‘real’ reason why…
   4. What crime is she ultimately ‘charged’ with?
   5. The police officer claims that the demonstrators have the right to say whatever they want. Take a couple sentences and explain how that squares with the First Amendment.
   6. The officer says repeatedly, she can ‘ignore it’ if she wants. What does he mean by this, in light of the First Amendment?
3. Posting signs on a campus of cut-up fetus parts laying on an operating table is very graphic and can be quite offensive to students who are just walking to class.
   1. How can Universities balance the Constitutional right of ‘freedom of speech’ with maintaining order on campus? (this will require Internet research)
   2. Can a University ban certain forms of speech? (will require Internet research) After all, a University receives money from the Federal Government…. does this mean they are bound by the First Amendment? (see what you can find online…)
4. What if the demonstrators posted signs that said, “Doctors performing abortions should be immediately shot.”….and then showed a cartoon depiction of it happening. Would this be protected free speech? Why or why not? Explain…
5. What if the demonstrators posted signs that knowingly made false statements, which said, “The Chancellor of this University receives kickbacks from illegal abortion clinics which operate under the law.”? Even if it was protected speech under the First Amendment, how could the falsely-accused person be ‘made whole’ for the damage done to his/her reputation? (‘made-whole’ means compensated)