

RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Everyone living in the United States has individual freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution's *Bill of Rights*. What would life be like if somebody took away your rights? Are some rights more important than others? How would you decide which rights were the most important? Think about these questions while you read the following scenario.

VISITOR FROM OUTER SPACE

It is the year 2080 and you are watching your holographic television when a special news bulletin comes on. A strange, alien-like creature appears on the screen and informs you that he has taken over the United States. You rapidly flick through 10,000 channels but find he is on every one:

“ATTENTION”, he begins, “I am Sthgir from planet Noitutitsnoc. Just as I have taken over television, I will take over your lives, but I come in peace. I realize that individual freedom means a great deal to American citizens.

Consequently, I will not take away all of your rights; you have a choice. From a list of your amendments that describe your fundamental rights, you may pick **three** to keep. Think carefully before you vote, as all your rights as citizens will terminate except for the ones you select! Failure to make a decision will result in the termination of **all** rights.

Remember: You may only choose **three amendments to keep** from the list below. When deciding on the three most important amendments, keep in mind that rights they describe affect our lives on both a personal and societal level. Also some rights have a broader scope than others. Think about which rights might include other rights.

Amendments

First Amendment:

Right to freedom of speech. Right to freedom of the press.
Right to peacefully assemble.

Second Amendment:

Right to have a state militia and bear arms.

Fourth Amendment:

Right to privacy. Protection against unreasonable search and seizures.

Fifth Amendment:

Protection from self-incrimination.

Sixth Amendment:

Right to a lawyer and right to a jury.

Eighth Amendment:

Right to protection from cruel and unusual punishment.

14th Amendment:

Right to equal protection of the laws.

Using this table, rank the amendments in order of importance. For the top three, write down your reason for choosing these as the amendments you value most. For the bottom four, write down your reasons for why you think these are not as important.

Amendments	Why did you select these amendments as the most important?
1.	
2.	
3.	
Amendments	Why are these amendments less important to you?
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	