

UNITED STATES HISTORY: Worksheet *The Bill of Rights* -- Hypothetical cases

1. Elizabeth Warren is a candidate for U.S. Senator in Massachusetts. The editor of a local newspaper prints that Warren is a “crook and a scoundrel.” **The editor’s right to print such a statement is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.**

True or False? _____ Amendment involved? _____

2. Elmer Fudd has been convicted of murder and sentenced to death by lethal injection (for murdering a “wabbit”). He is given the deadly injection, but the doctor has made an error and the shot does not kill him. **He can no longer be put to death because it would be “cruel and unusual punishment.”**

True or False? _____ Amendment involved? _____

3. The police have a warrant to search Charlie Sheen’s hotel room, looking for illegal drugs. As the police enter, Sheen swallows several capsules that were on the night stand. The police take Sheen to the hospital to have his stomach pumped so they can retrieve the evidence. **The police have the right to do so.**

True or False? _____ Amendment involved? _____

4. There is a very long backlog of cases at the local courthouse. **To speed up the scheduling of trials, the judge and prosecutor may decide to have a judge, rather than a jury, reach the verdict in some cases, even if the accused objects.**

True or False? _____ Amendment involved? _____

5. O.J. Simpson, accused of murder, has been found innocent by the jury. **The district attorney may ask for a new trial at a different location.**

True or False? _____ Amendment involved? _____

6. The police have a warrant to search Winona Ryder’s house looking for stolen property. When Ryder sees the police coming to the door, she runs to the house next door, carrying a Gucci shopping bag with her. **The police may now search the neighbor’s house.**

True or False? _____ Amendment involved? _____

7. During the war in Iraq, Mr. Kozuch gives a speech at a rally saying that the war is a terrible mistake, and urging other Americans not to join the armed forces until the conflict ends. **The government can prohibit him from making the speech because it may hurt the war effort.**

True or False? _____ Amendment involved? _____

8. Antoine Jones, was suspected of being part of a cocaine-selling operation. Prosecutors obtained a warrant allowing police to place a tracking device on Jones's Jeep Grand Cherokee. The warrant required them to do so within 10 days and within the District of Columbia. The police did not install the device until 11 days later, and they did it in Maryland. Now contending that no warrant was required, the authorities tracked Jones's travels for a month and used the evidence they gathered to convict him of conspiring to sell cocaine. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Did the police have a right to track Jones? Why or Why not? What Amendment is involved?