Student Handout 3: Bill of Rights in Action

Α

In a 1969 Supreme Court case, parents and students sued their school district. Students had worn black armbands to school in Des Moines, Iowa, to protest the war in Vietnam. School officials told them to remove the armbands, and when the students refused, they were suspended.

В

The 1966 Supreme Court case of Miranda v. Arizona: The Supreme Court overturned Ernesto Miranda's conviction for kidnapping and rape because he had not been informed of his legal rights prior to confessing. Miranda did not know that he could ask for an attorney or remain silent during questioning.

C

"He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislature." *Declaration of Independence*

D

After a mass shooting at a school in Florida, some people sought to ban assault rifles.

Ε

Clarence Earl Gideon was charged in Florida state court with a felony: having broken into and entered a poolroom with the intent to commit a misdemeanor offense. When he appeared in court without a lawyer, Gideon requested that the court appoint one for him. According to Florida state law, however, an attorney may only be appointed to an indigent defendant in capital cases, so the trial court did not appoint one.

F

In 1980, Bobby James Moore was convicted of capital murder for the shooting of, a seventy-year-old store clerk, in Houston, Texas. Moore was sentenced to death. The Supreme Court held that the use of outdated medical standards regarding intellectual disability to determine whether a person is exempt from execution violates the Constitution.

G

Lopez was a high school senior in San Antonio, Texas. On March 10th of 1992, Lopez carried a concealed handgun into school. The gun was loaded and Lopez had five backup rounds of ammunition tucked away in his jeans. Lopez was charged with violating federal laws which banned guns on all school properties in the United States. The United States Supreme Court ruled that Congress did not have power under Article I to ban guns on school properties and that this power belonged to the states.

Н

In 1987, the U.S. government brought a lawsuit against Edward Tull, a real estate developer. Tull was accused of discharging fill into wetlands which violated the Clean Water Act. Although Tull demanded a jury trial, his request was denied by the trial court. The Supreme Court determined that Tull had a right to a jury trial.

I

Although the rights to privacy and travel, as well as the presumption of innocence until proven guilty are not specifically written into the Constitution, the people still have these rights.

J

Sending lottery tickets through the mail is against the law in the United States. Police officers in Kansas City, Missouri went to the house of Mr. Fremont Weeks and used his hidden key to enter and search his home. While there, they took papers, letters, books, and other items. They did not have a search warrant. These items could not be used in court to prove whether Mr. Weeks was guilty of sending lottery tickets through the U.S. mail.

Κ

Writs of Assistance issued to allow British soldiers to search colonists' houses for suspected smuggled goods.