

Your Rights I

Name: _____

Time: _____

Date: _____

Read each court case and write what Constitutional Amendment(s) the case refers to.

Tinker v. Des Moines School District (1968)

Three students, John Tinker, Mary Beth Tinker, and Christopher Echardt, opposed the Vietnam War. They decided to wear black armbands to their high school to protest the war. To avoid possible disruption to the learning environment, the administration of the school told students they would have to remove the armbands or receive a suspension. The students refused to remove their armbands and were immediately suspended from school.

What amendment(s) does this case refer to? _____

What right(s) does this amendment protect? (see italicized rights in the Bill of Rights sheet)

What do you think? Choose one.

- The teenagers had a right to wear armbands to school to protest the Vietnam War.
- The school had a right to suspend the students in order to avoid disrupting the learning environment.

New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985)

A teacher caught T.L.O. and another student in a restroom smoking. Both girls went to the vice principal's office. One girl admitted to smoking but T.L.O. denied she smoked. The vice principal searched T.L.O.'s purse and found cigarettes and paper frequently used for smoking marijuana. Based on the paper, the vice principal searched her purse further finding marijuana, money, and a list of names. T.L.O. was arrested and found guilty. She appealed arguing that the vice principal did not have "probable cause" (a good reason) to search her purse and therefore the evidence cannot be used against her.

What amendment(s) does this case refer to? _____

What right(s) does this amendment protect? (see italicized rights in the Bill of Rights sheet)

What do you think? Choose one.

- The vice principal lacked "probable cause" to search T.L.O.'s purse; therefore, the search was illegal.
- The rolling paper gave the vice principal a reason to search T.L.O.'s purse, so the search was legal.

Bethel School District #43 v. Fraser (1987)

In Bethel, Washington, student Matthew Fraser gave a nominating speech for a fellow student running for a school office in front of a school assembly. During the speech, Fraser used profanity. This created an uproar from the audience--some approved of it and some did not. The school policy prohibited the use of profanity (swearing). For his actions, Fraser was suspended for three days.

What amendment(s) does this case refer to? _____

What right(s) does this amendment protect? (see italicized rights in the Bill of Rights sheet)

What do you think? Choose one.

- Fraser had a right to use profanity in his speech; therefore, the suspension violated his rights.
- The school has a right to discipline Fraser for using profanity.

Horton v. Goose Creek Independent School District (1978)

With the rise of drug and alcohol use, school district officials wanted to increase security for the safety of the students attending their schools. The school district used trained dogs to search for illicit drugs. The dogs sniffed lockers, cars, and students. Any indication by a dog of an unauthorized substance resulted in a search of that object or person. Students sued the school district claiming their rights had been violated.

What amendment(s) does this case refer to? _____

What right(s) does this amendment protect? (see italicized rights in the Bill of Rights sheet)

What do you think? Choose one.

- Using dogs to find drugs/alcohol gives school officials "reasonable cause" to search property.
- Using dogs to find drugs/alcohol gives school officials "reasonable cause" to search people.
- Using dogs to find drugs/alcohol gives school officials "reasonable cause" to search property or people.
- Using dogs is an invasion of privacy and, therefore, a violation of student rights.