**Bill of Rights** - project introduction

**Goal: Create a binder** on the topic of the Bill of Rights (or other issues related to the later amendments or other Constitutional issues.) The project must demonstrate how the Bill of Rights (or the Constitution) is relevant today.

The **criteria** listed below has been discussed with students.

**Organization**:

1. One inch binder
2. Binder spine has student name and project name.
3. Title page and student name.
4. The Bill of Rights page.
5. The focus is the topic of the Bill of Rights *and its relevance today*.
6. Two current event articles which have been published are presented that connect to the topic.
7. Each article is at least one page in length.
8. Each article is accompanied by a written report that reflects student analysis
9. A bibliography is included.

**Content - Articles**:

1. Articles are relevant.
2. Articles represent **quality** articles.
3. Articles demonstrate understanding of the topic.
4. Articles are ‘display-ready’ - copied and pasted into WORD before printing, eliminating all extra website material, or are ‘print friendly’ versions.

**Bibliographic information**

1. A bibliographic citation page concludes the binder.

* **Sample magazine source:**

Last, First M. “Article Title.” Magazine Title. Date Month Year Published: Page(s).

Rothbart, Davy. “How I Caught Up With Dad.” Men’s Health Oct. 2008: 108-13.

If the online magazine source is **not** the same as the hard copy source, add the website.

Rothbart, Davy. “How I Caught Up With Dad.” Men’s Health Oct. 2008: 108-13. Google Books.

Web. 16 Mar. 2013.

* **Sample newspaper source:**

Last, First M. "Article Title." Newspaper Title [City] Date Month Year Published: Page(s).

Bowman, Lee. "Bills Target Lake Erie Mussels." The Pittsburgh Press 7 Mar. 1990: A4.

**Conten**t - **The written report** should include:

* A summary of each article
  + demonstrates understanding of the article
  + demonstrates relevance to the topic
* Analysis of each article
  + Minimum
* demonstrates understanding of the article
* provides a clear explanation of the connection between the article content and the Bill of Rights
* provides opinion and reasons for the opinion

o Challenging

* + - discusses what you believe is important; what problems are related to the issue
    - assesses the quality of the writer, bias, etc
    - examines different points-of-view; makes connections between the specific case in each article and other topics
    - may go beyond the article to speculate and explore broader connections

**Presentation**:

1. Neat, attractive, and demonstrates effort.
2. Creativity is demonstrated in the *development* of the topic **and** in the *presentation* of the poster.
3. All items required are included and organized I the binder using tabs.

**Mainstream News – online version of a print source**

* [The Independent](http://www.independent.co.uk/). A British based newspaper.
* The London Telegraph
* The Guardian – Another London paper
* The London Evening Standard
* The [Los Angeles Times](http://www.latimes.com/)
* The [New York Times](http://www.nyt.com/). Registration required. (Free)
* The [Washington Post](http://www.washingtonpost.com/)
* [Reuters](http://www.reuters.com/). British-based news service.
* The Associated Press (AP) news organization – Free if within seven days; usually $1.50 per **archived** article
* [Salon Magazine](http://www.salon.com/)
* Time Magazine (Must be a subscriber and have your magazine code)
* Newsweek (The Daily Beast)
* [Slate Magazine](http://www.slate.com/). The Washington Post's online magazine.
* [World Press Review](http://www.worldpress.org/), a monthly magazine offering analyses and English-language translations of the international press.

**Examples of ‘Broad’ search terms to use within a news site – NOT on a general search engine**

* Constitutional challenges
* Supreme Court cases
* First Amendment issues (Second Amendment, 14th Amendment, etc. Better to SPELL OUT the number)
* Civil Rights cases

Specific issues

* + Death penalty
  + Freedom of Speech
  + Gun ownership
  + Gun control
  + Police misconduct
  + Fair trial
  + Homeland security

**Bill of Rights Analysis suggestions**

The **SUMMARY** reports on, or summarizes the article. You say what the reporter said in the article, in a shorter version, but in your own words.

The **ANALYSIS** explains the article. Here are some definitions of "analysis."

*Analysis is the process of breaking a complex topic or substance into smaller parts to gain a better understanding of it.*

*Analysis is when you study the nature of something or determine its essential features and their relations.*

The criteria in the rubric says:

* Analysis of each article
* demonstrates understanding of the article

>>>so DON’T use words unless you explain them; DO make sure your sentences are clearly written. Imagine a 5th grader will read it. Will it make sense to them? Have you 'broken it down' and explained your ideas well?

* provides opinion and reasons for the opinion

>>>You can discuss **OTHER people's opinions**, and why they might hold those opinions, as well as your OWN views.

* provides a clear explanation of the connection between the article content and the Bill of Rights

>>>This is easy to do if you picked good articles. Some articles will be very clearly connected to a specific amendment issue, and even come right out and say the connection.

Your analysis of the articles could include the following:

* Explain vocabulary that is mentioned in the articles.
* Describe ideas from each article in more detail, especially if they are not explained clearly in the article.
* You should also **discuss your own opinions**. What do you believe **and why**?
* **What do you believe is important** to understand about this issue? What **problems** are there related to this issue and why? Use the particular topic of your article and **go beyond that to other examples** if you can, making connections between the specific case in each article and other topics that are related.
* Assesses the quality of the writer, bias, etc; examines different points-of-view; makes connections between the specific case in each article and other topics
* What are the **different points-of-view** related to your topic? Discuss how different groups or people might feel about the issue, since Bill of Rights topics are often controversial issues and everyone does not agree about these issues.
* Discuss what you believe is important; what **problems are related to the issue?**