Benchmark SS.7.C.2.4

Strand: Civics and Government

Reporting Category: Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities of Citizens

Standard: Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system.

Benchmark: SS.7.C.2.4 Evaluate rights contained in the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the Constitution.

Benchmark Clarifications:
- Students will recognize that the Bill of Rights comprises the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
- Students will recognize the five freedoms protected by the First Amendment.
- Students will evaluate how the Bill of Rights influences individual actions and social interactions.
- Students will use scenarios to identify rights protected by the Bill of Rights.
- Students will use scenarios to recognize violations of the Bill of Rights or other constitutional amendments.

Content Limit: Items will not require students to identify protected rights by specific amendment numbers.

Stimulus Attribute: Items addressing the rights in the Bill of Rights may use historical and contemporary documents and other relevant stimuli (e.g., maps, timelines, charts, graphs, tables).

Content Focus: These terms are given in addition to those found in the standards, benchmarks, and benchmark clarifications. Additional items may include, but are not limited to, the following: cruel and unusual punishment, double jeopardy, due process, eminent domain, equal protection under the law, pleading the fifth, right to bear arms, right to legal counsel, search and seizure, suffrage, trial by jury, and unenumerated rights (Ninth Amendment).
Sample Item 12  SS.7.C.2.4  Content Focus  Freedom of the Press

The statement below was made by Thomas Jefferson in a 1786 letter to John Jay.

\[ \ldots \text{our liberty, which cannot be guarded but by the freedom of the press} \ldots \]

Source: Public Domain / Library of Congress

Why should this freedom be guarded?

A. to provide the news media with a guaranteed profit
B. to keep the news media from controlling the political process
C. to provide the government with an accurate information source
★ D. to keep the government from becoming the primary information source