

"A POTPOURRI OF MINORITY RIGHTS ISSUES"

(Can choose your own with approval of Mr. Robertson)

- 10 minute (on your own) or 15 minute (groups of 2) presentation and a written summary.
 - Print copies for the class :

- You need to:
 - Discuss each side of the issue
 - Evaluate each position in reference to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
 - Decide what position Canada should take on the issue relative to a Biblical worldview

- FOCUS QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:
 - ✓ Explore the relationship between personal and collective worldviews and ideology on your issue.
 - ✓ Explore how ideologies shape your issues in regards to individual and collective citizenship.
 - ✓ Analyze perspectives on the rights, roles and responsibilities of the individual in a democratic society (respect for law and order, dissent, civility, political participation, citizen advocacy) in regards to your issue.

Name: _____

Date of Presentation: _____

Title of Work: _____

	Criteria				Points	
	1	2	3	4		
<i>Presentation</i>	Organization	Audience cannot understand presentation because there is no sequence of information.	Audience has difficulty following presentation because student jumps around.	Student presents information in logical sequence which audience can follow.	Student presents information in logical, interesting sequence which audience can follow.	—
	Content Knowledge	Student does not have grasp of information; student cannot answer questions about subject.	Student is uncomfortable with information and is able to answer only rudimentary questions.	Student is at ease with content, but fails to elaborate.	Student demonstrates full knowledge (more than required) with explanations and elaboration.	—
	Visuals	Student used no visuals.	Student occasional used visuals that rarely support text and presentation.	Visuals related to text and presentation.	Student used visuals to reinforce screen text and presentation.	—
	Mechanics	Student's presentation had four or more spelling errors and/or grammatical errors.	Presentation had three misspellings and/or grammatical errors.	Presentation has no more than two misspellings and/or grammatical errors.	Presentation has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	—
	Delivery	Student mumbles, incorrectly pronounces terms, and speaks too quietly for students in the back of class to hear.	Student incorrectly pronounces terms. Audience members have difficulty hearing presentation.	Student's voice is clear. Student pronounces most words correctly.	Student used a clear voice and correct, precise pronunciation of terms.	—
<i>Written</i>	Organization	Sequence of information is difficult to follow.	Reader has difficulty following work because student jumps around.	Student presents information in logical sequence which reader can follow.	Information in logical, interesting sequence which reader can follow.	—
	Content Knowledge	Student does not have grasp of information; student cannot answer questions about subject.	Student is uncomfortable with content and is able to demonstrate basic concepts.	Student is at ease with content, but fails to elaborate.	Student demonstrates full knowledge (more than required).	—
	Grammar and Spelling	Work has four or more spelling errors and/or grammatical errors.	Presentation has three misspellings and/or grammatical errors.	Presentation has no more than two misspellings and/or grammatical errors.	Presentation has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	—
	Neatness	Work is illegible.	Work has three or four areas that are sloppy.	Work has one or two areas that are sloppy.	Work is neatly done.	—
	References	Work displays no references.	Work does not have the appropriate number of required references.	Reference section was completed incorrectly	Work displays the correct number of references, written correctly.	—
				Total →	—	

FROM THE CANADIAN SCENE

a. FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS:

1. THE KEEGSTRA CASE (video): the Supreme Court ruled that the HATE LAW is a Reasonable restriction on his freedom of expression.
2. THE SIKH BOXER(video): If he wanted, Mr. Nagra could try using the Charter to override the rules of the Boxing Association. Judges would have To determine if there was sufficient reason for the restriction to his religious expression.
- C. THE APEC PROTESTORS (video) In 1997, dozens of citizens claim that the RCMP violated their freedom of expression and right of peaceful assembly in restricting their protest of visiting Asian leaders. The RCMP Will argue that its use of force was needed for the safety of all involved. This will be interesting!!!
- #1 D. THE SHARPE CASE (POSSESSION OF CHILD PONOGRAPHY) (Reading)
Follow the case as it's made its way from BC to OTTawa

B. LEGAL RIGHTS

1. ALBERTA CHECKSTOPS: In the early days of the Charter, a group from Alberta argued that checkstops violated their liberty, and was an "arbitrary form of detention". The Supreme Court ruled that yes, their freedom was restricted, but that it was in the best interests citizens (safe driving conditions. The Checkstop Program was upheld by the courts.
- #7 2. KIM MAIER AND THE SEATBELT CASE (READING) Read to find out why we are not free to abandon seatbelts.

- #2 3. THE CASE OF THE ANTHRAX VACCINATION (READING) Read to find out whether a soldier has the right to refuse an order.

C. EQUALITY RIGHTS

- #3 1. THE JUSTINE BLAINNEY CASE (Read one of the very first "female rights" cases

2. **MS. MEIORIN, THE FEMALE FIREFIGHTER (Video)** The Supreme Court ruled that the rules established by the BC fire fighting service were unreasonable in that the standards set for females had no relation to their ability to do their job well. The department will have to re-write its standards.

③ Read "No Shirt, no crime"

D. ONGOING INTERPRETATIONS

1. GAY AND LESBIAN RIGHTS??

A. **THE CASE OF IAN PATERSON (video clip)** A very early case that Only got media attention because the school's actions in limiting Ian's freedom of (gay) expression **COULD** not be appealed in a court. Up until now, the school's decision would have been final.

#4 B. **THE VREIND DECISION (video and reading)** The Supreme Court ruled that Alberta's Human Rights Laws need to be revised to protect people of "alternate sexual orientation" from discrimination the workplace and In seeking accomodation. **NOTE:** the Judges interpreted "the right not be discriminated against on the basis of sex, as including sexual preference, not what you are biologically. Talk about Judicial Activism.

#5 C. **SAME-SPOUSE BENEFITS (READING)** After losing a series of cases brought forward by gay and lesbian civil servants, the Chretien government will amend its own law to include these "rights"

2. **NATIVE RIGHTS:** The Charter of Rights and Freedoms(1982) included a
A promise that all existing treaty obligations will be
Upheld forever (or until both parties agree to restructure them)

However, it is open to interpretation as to what the rights granted in the past mean today. "Aboriginal rights" is a new concept (very closely linked to Locke's concept of "natural rights")that implies that the first people in an area have certain rights that extend to the present.

The recent **MARSHALL** case involving the hunting and fishing rights of the Micmac Indians of the Maritimes tried to translate the intent of the original.

treaty in modern terms. The Supreme court ruled that the Micmac had an aboriginal right to fish without license and in any season (but that this right was subject to conservation measures)

3. THE RIGHT TO GET HELP TO DIE (EUTHANASIA; ASSISTED SUICIDE)

- #6
- A. THE SUE RODRIQUEZ DECISION (READ) The classic Case in which the Supreme Court ruled that Rodriguez did NOT have the right to get help to die. It was (and still is) illegal to help another in this way. The court upheld the Criminal Code restriction on "aiding and abetting" the death of another.
 - B. THE DUTCH WAY (video) The Dutch have worked out a system in which assisted suicide is legal. Note the conditions that must be fulfilled for a person to get the help of doctor in ending their own life.
 - C. THE STATE OF OREGON'S PATH (video) How is the State of Oregon's Experiment with assisted suicide going?

* You can also look at influential Charter Challenges over the last three decades.