**Bill of Rights Project** Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Using the actual *Bill of Rights*, and the *Bill of Rights- Paraphrased in Today's Language*, please answer these questions as completely as possible. Answers to numbers 1-3 may be written neatly on lined paper or typed.

1. Why did the representatives of some states insist that a Bill of Rights be included as amendments to the Constitution? (Hint: Look at each amendment...what did the U.S.A. just experience before creating the Constitution?) 15 points

2. In your opinion, which one amendment **remains** the most important in today's U.S.A.? Why? 10 points

3. In your opinion, which one amendment is **no longer necessary** in today's U.S.A.? Why? 10 points

4. If you had the power to create an *H.K.M.S. Students' Bill of Rights*, what would it be? 25 points

**\* It must be *five* to *ten* rights.**

**\* Each right should be explained (Why is it so important to students at our school?).**

**\* It should be presented in an *official* way.**

**Bill of Rights Project Grading Sheet**

Question 1: You earned \_\_\_\_\_\_ out of a possible 15 points.

Question 2: You earned \_\_\_\_\_\_ out of a possible 10 points.

Questions 3: You earned \_\_\_\_\_\_ out of a possible 10 points.

Question 4: You earned \_\_\_\_\_\_ out of a possible 25 points.

Overall, you earned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of a possible 60 points.

Things You Did Well on These Responses Ways to Improve on Your Next Response(s)

***THE BILL OF RIGHTS* – FULL TEXT**

***Amendment I***

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*

***Amendment II***

*A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.*

***Amendment III***

*No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.*

***Amendment IV***

*The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.*

***Amendment V***

*No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.*

***Amendment VI***

*In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.*

***Amendment VII***

*In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.*

***Amendment VII***

*In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.*

***Amendment VIII***

*Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.*

***Amendment IX***

*The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.*

***Amendment X***

*The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.*

*"The Bill of Rights"-* ***Paraphrased*** *in Today's Language*

1. Congress can't make any law about your religion, or stop you from practicing your religion, or keep you from saying whatever you want, or publishing whatever you want (like in a newspaper or a book). And Congress can't stop you from meeting peacefully for a demonstration to ask the government to change something.

2. Congress can't stop people from having and carrying weapons- because we need to be able to defend ourselves.

3. You don't have to let soldiers live in your house, except if there is a war, and even then only if Congress has passed a law about it.

4. Nobody can search your body, or your house, or your papers and things, unless they can prove to a judge that they have a good reason to think you have committed a crime.

5. You can't be tried for any serious crime without a Grand Jury meeting first to decide whether there's enough evidence for a trial. And if the jury decides you are innocent, the government can't try again with another jury. You don't have to say anything at your trial. You can't be killed, or put in jail, or fined, unless you were convicted of a crime by a jury. And the government can't take your house or your farm or anything that is yours, unless the government pays for it.

6. If you're arrested, you have a right to have your trial pretty soon, and the government can't keep you in jail without trying you. The trial has to be public, so everyone knows what is happening. The case has to be decided by a jury of ordinary people from your area. You have the right to know what you are accused of, to see and hear the people who are witnesses against you, to have the government help you get witnesses on your side, and you have the right to a lawyer to help you.

7. You also have the right to a jury when it is a civil case (a law case between two people rather than between you and the government).

8. The government can't make you pay more than is reasonable in bail or in fines, and the government can't order you to have cruel or unusual punishments (like torture) even if you are convicted of a crime.

9. Just because these rights are listed in the Constitution doesn't mean that you don't have other rights too.

10. Anything that the Constitution doesn't say that Congress can do should be left up to the states, or to the people.

Ways to Present Your Students’ Bill of Rights in an Official Way

1. Typed Document

2. Cursive Document

3. Formal Announcement (video, etc.)

Sample Students' Rights- Models to Use

1. ***All students have the right to learn from a teacher who deeply understands his or her subject matter and who deeply cares about each individual student in the classroom.***

This right is important because different students learn in different ways. Each teacher should present the material and information in his or her class in ways that address the various learning styles of his or her students. For example, some students learn best by reading and writing while others learn best through movement, art, or music. In addition, each teacher should empathize with his or her students because a teacher may not know the background and home life of all of his or her students. The teacher should consider a student's feelings before making a decision that may greatly affect him or her. After all, as Albert Einstein stated, "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

***2. All students have the right to meet their own physical needs during school hours (e.g. bringing a snack, getting a drink, being allowed to use the restroom, etc.).***

This right is important for several reasons. One, students learn best when they are comfortable. If a student is denied opportunities to meet his or her physical needs, he or she may not be as attentive as possible in class. Second, students in a class may be distracted by a classmate in physical distress. Therefore, the uneasiness of one student may affect the entire class. Finally, as Benjamin Franklin noted, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." This means that teachers who involve students and consider their needs have lasting impacts on their students- while those that ignore even the most basic physical needs do not learn.