

A Trip Around the World

Name: _____

A. A Closer Look at Gender. Both Germany and Iran mention men *and* women when they talk about rights and equality in their constitutions. Gender equality is an issue all over the globe.

Germany's Constitution says:

Men and women shall have equal rights. The state shall promote the actual implementation of equal rights for women and men and take steps to eliminate disadvantages that now exist."

Iran's Constitution says:

All citizens of the country, both men and women, equally enjoy the protection of the law."

The U.S. Constitution says:

No State shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Read each question and guess the answer by circling the percentage you think is correct.

1. What percentage of elected government representatives around the world are women?
a. 17% b. 52% c. 3% d. 68%
2. Worldwide, women who work outside the home earn wages that are less than men's. How much less are women's wages?
a. 23% b. 5% c. 20% d. 55%
3. Internationally, boys usually receive more education than girls. Of all the people in the world who can't read or write, what percent are women?
a. 1% b. 66% c. 28% d. 14%

B. A Closer Look at Speech. All the countries in this lesson have constitutions that discuss freedom of speech or the press. Brazil's constitution says you have these freedoms as long as you don't hide your identity when you speak. Ghana protects the freedom of speech as long as you do not speak against the nation or its people and symbols. Read the scenarios below. Which ones describe situations where freedom of speech would probably be protected? Pay attention to the country!

Brazil's Constitution says:

...the expression of thought is free, anonymity being forbidden..:

Ghana's Constitution says:

All persons shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, but the government may pass laws that are reasonably required for the purpose of safeguarding the people of Ghana against the teaching of a doctrine which encourages disrespect for the nationhood of Ghana, the national symbols and emblems, or incites hatred against other members of the community.

Protected?

1. A Ghanaian man writes an article about how he hates a neighboring community, and how everyone else should hate them too.
2. A Brazilian woman posts something on a blog criticizing the nation's president, but does not identify herself.
3. In Ghana, a small but secretive group have been posting flyers around the capital calling on people to vote in the upcoming election.
4. A group of Brazilian teens create a fake Facebook account to harass someone in their class. No one is claiming responsibility.



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C. What if... you lived and worked in a nation like Iran? How might the difference in constitutional rights affect you? Complete the activities below.

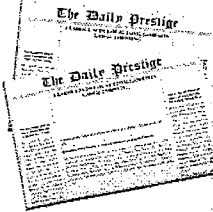
Journalist: Your job is to report on what happens around Iran for a national newspaper.

Could you report on any topic you felt was newsworthy?

- Yes No It depends...

Which stories might not be allowed? Put an **X** next to stories that might get you into trouble.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Muslims Push for Voice in Government | <input type="checkbox"/> American Government Criticizes Censorship Within Iran |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nation Celebrates Major Islamic Holiday | <input type="checkbox"/> Iranian Military Builds New Fighter Jets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defiant Reporters Jailed in Tehran | <input type="checkbox"/> One in Four Websites Blocked by Iranian Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pollution at a Ten Year Low | <input type="checkbox"/> Ancient Persian Art Show Opens Tomorrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Minority Groups Celebrate in Government-Approved Events | |



Select one of the stories you marked with an **X** and complete the following:

Headline: _____

Explain why you decided that this story would be dangerous to report. Think back to the rights discussed earlier. Use at least three words from the word bank.

- critical
- freedom
- support
- press
- rights
- government
- religion
- equality
- environment
- public
- speech
- censorship

Select one of the stories you did not mark and complete the following:

Headline: _____

Explain why you decided that this story would be safe to report. Think back to the rights discussed earlier. Use at least three words from the word bank.