



UNDERSTANDING THE FOURTH AMENDMENT

Working with a partner, reread the text of the Fourth Amendment (below). As you read, underline or highlight words you don't understand.

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.

Then, working with your partner, using context clues and a dictionary if needed, write a definition for at least one of these words. You will fill in the other definitions during a class discussion.

Word	Definition
search	
seizure	
reasonable/unreasonable	
warrant	
papers	
effects	

MS CONSTITUTION 101

Module 11: The Fourth Amendment

11.2: Understanding the Fourth Amendment

Before the government can search your home or seize your property, it needs a good reason. This is the big idea behind the Fourth Amendment's warrant requirement. Privacy is important, and we all have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Start by writing down what privacy means to you and when you expect privacy.

What does privacy mean to you?	
What things in your life do you expect to be private?	

Next, share your ideas with a partner. Do you share similar ideas about privacy? Why or why not?

Finally, discuss the following situations. Together, decide if these situations represent invasions of privacy. Why or why not?

A teacher looks through a student's locker.	Is this an invasion of privacy? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Why?
A police officer searches a car without asking.	Is this an invasion of privacy? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Why?

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<p>A school principal asks to check a student's phone.</p>	<p>Is this an invasion of privacy? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Why?</p>
<p>A parent asks to look through their child's text messages.</p>	<p>Is this an invasion of privacy? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Why?</p>

