

NAME(S) _____ DATE _____

Step 1: First Amendment

“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 the grievances.”

Step 2: Notable First Amendment Cases

In your small groups, read through a few of the notable First Amendment cases listed on the American Library Association website (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/censorship/courtcases>). Please choose ONE to focus on. Please check in your “chosen case” with Ms. Beger to ensure there are no repeat cases. You will be sharing your findings with the class.

Step 3: 1st Amendment Activity

After choosing your case, work together to answer the following questions regarding censorship and the First Amendment. Remember to review the First Amendment (listed above) and consider how it relates to what freedoms citizens are allowed.

Read through your group’s case, and please answer the following questions (in complete sentences):

1. What’s going on here? Give us a basic overview, including: year, state, parties involved, and a brief summary.

2. What was the outcome of the case?

3. How does this case represent a conflict against the First Amendment?

4. How does this represent work against or for censorship in our country?

*Be prepared to share your responses with the class tomorrow as a group. Decide how you will split up the information between your partners into the following parts: a summary of the case, its outcome, how it relates to the issue of freedom of speech, and if it still impacts our thoughts on censorship today.