Your Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Are the principles of democracy reflected in Sidney High School?**

**“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish the Constitution for the United States of America”**

**-Preamble to the U.S. Constitution**

The U.S Constitution is more than a blueprint for our system of government. It embodies a set of principles we live by and represents who we are as a people. The challenge the Framers of the Constitution faced was to create a government strong enough to insure peace and order, but not so strong that it threatens individual rights. To ensure this balance is maintained, the principles outlined in the Constitution, such as the separation of powers and a system of checks and balances, allow creation, enforcement and review of laws. Collectively, these safeguards promote the goals of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution while prioritizing fundamental rights and liberties.

**“The Sidney School District is a professional learning community with the mission of collaborating for the academic, emotional, and social growth of each student through quality and purposeful educational experiences in and out of the classroom. The District and community will share in the responsibilities of nurturing students along the path to thrive as productive life-long learners in a culturally rich world.” -Mission Statement of Sidney Public Schools**

**“The educational mission of Sidney High School is to foster a safe and supportive environment that cultivates excellence in learning through citizenship, self-discipline, motivation, and positive social attitudes. Cooperation among the school, the home, and the community provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful lives and careers.” -Mission Statement of Sidney Hight School**

As the Supreme Court recently ruled in *B.L v Mahanoy*, “Public schools are the ‘nurseries of democracy.’” In order to create a safe and successful learning environment for students, our school systems have constructed their own set of rules and regulations. Those rules attempt to strike the same balance the Framers did between order and liberty. The similarities are found in the social and political realms as well. In many respects, public schools are microcosms of our democratic society, preparing students for their democratic obligations by giving them the opportunity to practice the habits of citizenship. Leo Club and Key Club, for example, are mini versions of Lions and Kiwanis respectively. Student councils are the high school version of city council. Homecoming and other elections are representative of local, state, and federal elections; all members of society are expected to engage. Essentially, public schools in America hope to provide the same freedoms and democratic opportunities as in the “real world” with the understanding that to fulfill their mission statements, the priority of schools are safe learning environments.

Considering that Sidney High School drafted its own constitution and created a student council and government system, do these models include the constitutional principles that the Founders considered absolutely necessary to maintain a democracy? What governing models do administrators look to when drafting Sidney Public School and Sidney High School policies? What are some of the ways students are able to make their voices heard? How do the rights of students in a school system differ from our individual rights as U.S. citizens? Are we able to see the principles of the Constitution in Sidney High School, and/or is there a need to incorporate more of these principles?

**Questions To Consider**

1) What are some similarities between the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution and the mission statements of the Sidney Public School District and Sidney High School?

2) What differences stand out to you?

3) Is it fair to believe the same rights/freedoms of adults should be found in a school system comprised of students between 5-18 yrs of age? Why or why not?

4) As a student, do you feel that your voice is heard and represented in school policies formation? Are students able/have an opportunity to change school policies? Explain.

5) Is there a fair process to challenge violation of rights, punishment rulings, or enforcement of policy? Explain?

6) In your view, are the principles of the U.S. Constitution reflected at Sidney High School? From Your Textbook Rate 1-10 how effective. Write in N/A if you don’t know.

\_\_\_\_Citizen Participation

\_\_\_\_Regular and Free Elections

\_\_\_\_Accepting the Results of Elections

\_\_\_\_The Rule of Law

\_\_\_\_Majority Rule with Minority Rights

\_\_\_\_ Accountability

\_\_\_\_Transparency

\_\_\_\_Limited Rights and a Bill of Rights

\_\_\_\_Control of the Abuse of Power

\_\_\_\_Economic Freedom

\_\_\_\_Equality

\_\_\_\_Individual or Human Rights

\_\_\_\_Independent Judiciary

\_\_\_\_Competing Political Parties

7) Rate 1-10 how effective you believe the Sidney Public Schools are in giving you the opportunity and preparing you for the practice of citizenship. Explain your ranking.

Consider the time spent on academics during the school day, & whether it is a correct balance between core subjects, the arts, technology, etc. Consider programs that help students outside of the classroom (or a lack of those programs), such as ones that deal with bullying, stress, nutrition, fitness, etc. Consider the infrastructure at the school (classrooms, common areas, cafeteria, gym, activity fields, etc.), and whether or not they are meeting the needs of the students. As a student, there are certainly policies or programs at your school that can be improved?  **List AND describe an area of the school where you’d like to see change or improvements?**

8)

**Questions Prior to Class**

9) **Individual Question Prior to Class:**

**10) PARENT/GUARDIAN/ADULT Question Prior to Class: Initials:**

**IF ABSENT DURING THE PRESENTATION/ ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT: An**swer the following questions from your textbook:pg. 68 EQ (In Black, NOT Red)-A & B;  pg. 72 EQ (In Black, NOT Red) A & C and Book Review: pg. 21 #1; Federalism and Education pgs. 100-101 #1-3 & WWYD