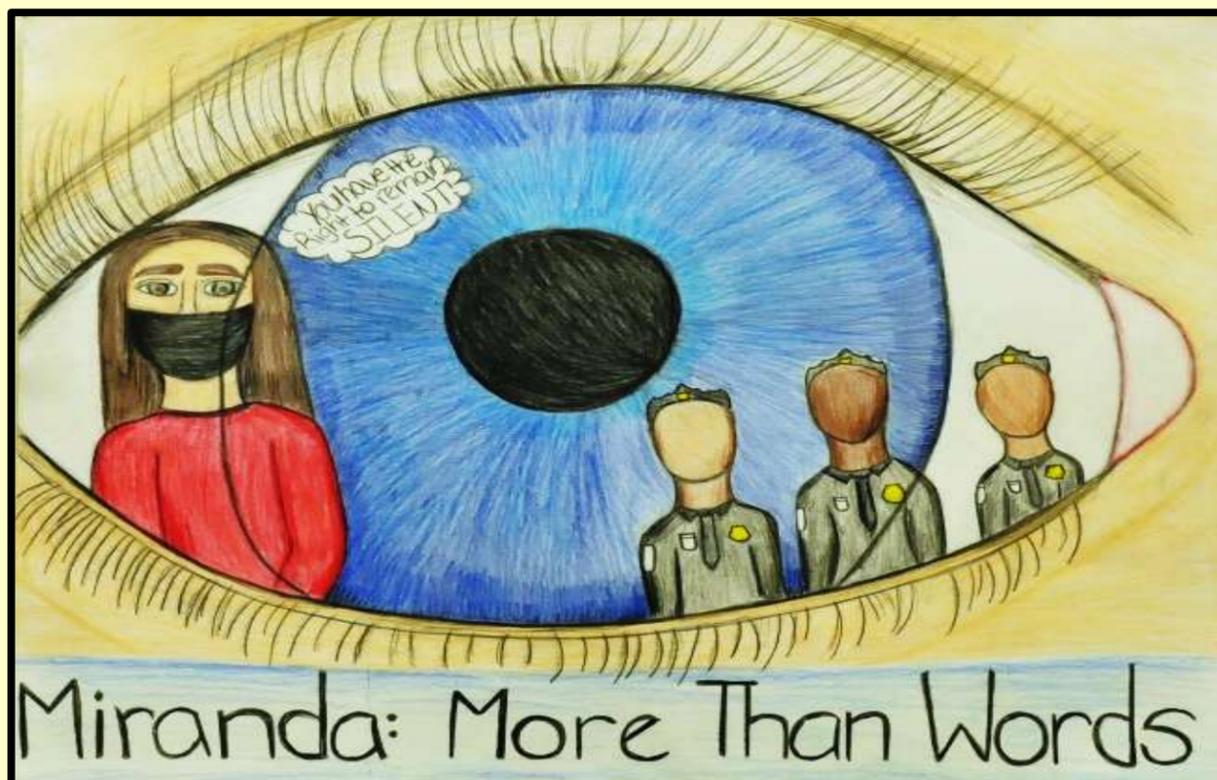


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Miranda: More Than Words

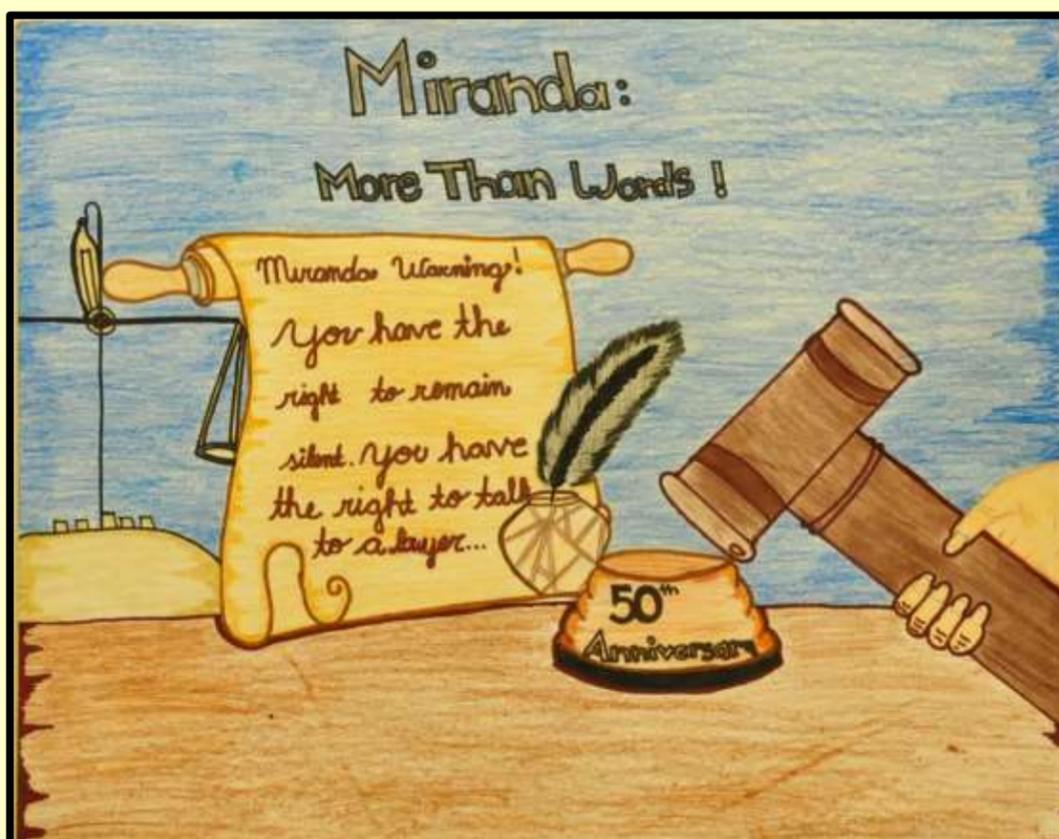


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Miranda: More Than Words



Second Place Art

By Cynthia Perez

4th Grade - Wilson Avenue School

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Miranda: More Than Words



Third Place Art

By Mayara Chagao

8th Grade - Wilson Avenue School

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Miranda: More Than Words



Honorable Mention Art
By Chidera Mukosolu Ibiam
5th Grade - Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School

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Miranda: More Than Words



Honorable Mention Art

By Michelle Tene

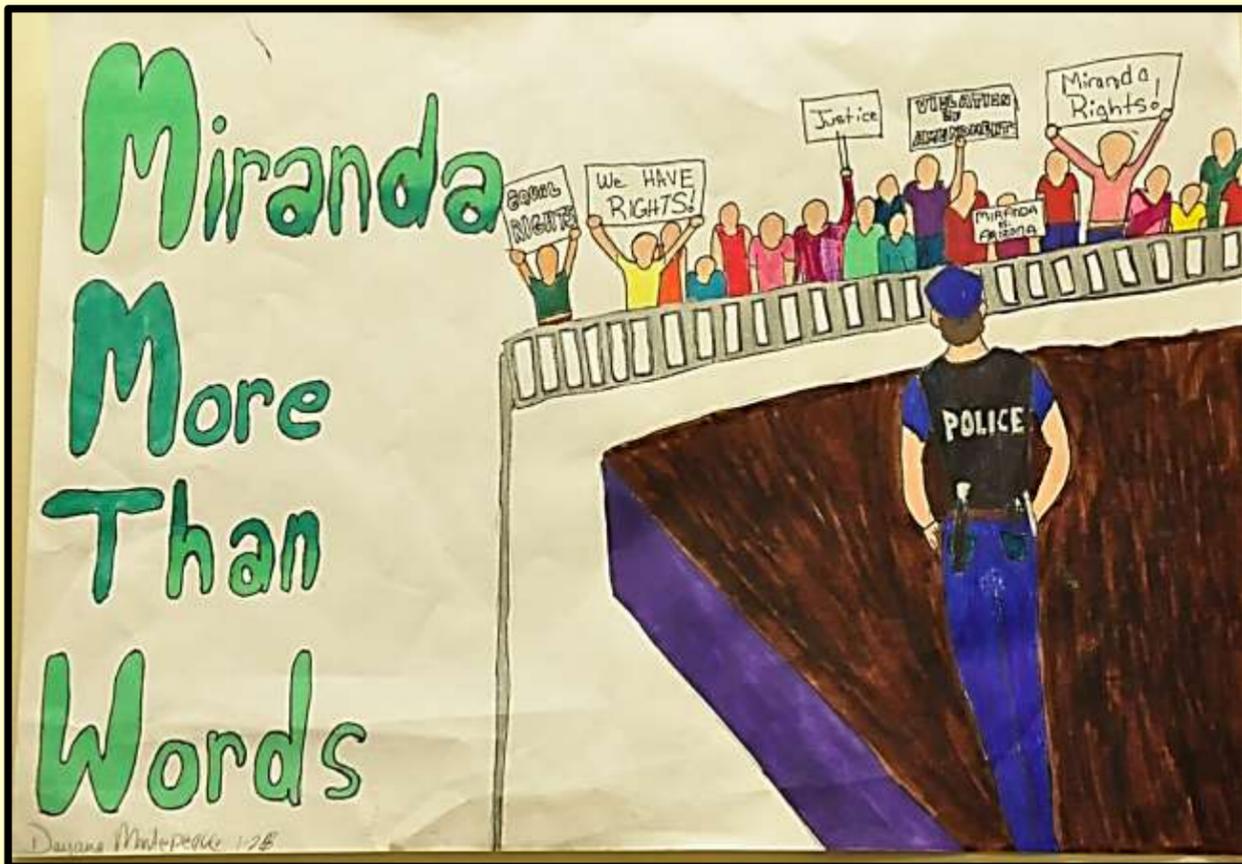
4th Grade - Wilson Avenue School

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Law Day 2016

Miranda: More Than Words



Honorable Mention Art

By Dayana Montepeque
8th Grade - Union Avenue Middle School

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Miranda: More Than Words

"Mighty Miranda"

Miranda, Oh Miranda
How great are thee
You doth protect us
from illegal captivity

If thee have need for learned advice
Appointed counsel shall be forthcoming
The accused needeth not ask twice
For justice shall be not running

If silence be your enduring desire
Speech cannot be compelled
Miranda states there shall be no trial by fire
Unalienable rights shall be upheld

Speech must flow of thine's free will
Coercion shall follow no more
For this right is guaranteed in our hallowed Bill
Equality for wealthy and poor

One's freedom is too great a price to pay
Its protectors must standeth tall
As we proclaim, and continue to say
Liberty and justice for all!

First Place Poem

By Samson E. Merise
6th Grade - Newark Christian School

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Miranda: More Than Words

"The Right to Remain Human"

They sat me down in a cold, hard chair,
And over me they stood.
I felt like I was in a nightmare
When one ordered me to remove my hood.

The men in blue, the ones who knew,
Or so they often thought.
The innocent always pleaded or subdued
While the guilty tried not to get caught.

Hours on end they griped at me
They spat in my face with lies
They pushed and pressed until I could see
The tears swell in my eyes.

I wasn't granted a phone call,
Nor a lawyer to offer their wits.
All I could afford to do was stall,
But eventually I would have to submit.

I tried to think of a way out,
Devise some type of reprieve,
While they slowly corroded my will power
And ground it through their sieve.

With white knuckles and a lowered head,
I figured this was it.
Then I lifted my eyes to look at them and said,
"I exercise my right to remain silent."

Second Place Poem

By Raynia Price

12th Grade - Bloomfield High School

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Miranda: More Than Words

"Life of Ernesto (Law Day, Miranda Warning)"

Locked in a room, no good options given
Prison, death, or self-incrimination
This crime was about a girl, kidnapped and raped
The cops saw me as an easy escape

Young and dumb, my confession was stated
Not knowing my rights were violated
Right to not speak, right to an attorney
I still have rights even with no money

Nineteen-sixty six was a new beginning
Named after me, "The Miranda Warning"
A way to help prevent false confession
Protection against interrogation

Fifty years later and still continuing
Choose when to answer during questioning
My forced confession can't be used in court
Crime suspects are entitled to support

The police must "mirandize" a suspect
"Equal justice under law" we respect
Constitutional rights are guaranteed
Each case chances are higher to succeed.



Third Place Poem
By Farieda Butisingh
12th Grade - Bloomfield High School

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Law Day 2016

Miranda: More Than Words

"Miranda Rights"

Rehearse them. Make sure they read them to you;
These rights will lead you the correct way.
Offering justice to the innocent,
making sure they don't take your rights with foul
play.

You are allowed to remain silent,
and be given a lawyer, as told by an edict.
Especially for those who are blameless,
listen to this to avoid a guilty verdict.

If we were not given amendments,
Self-incrimination would consume a nation.
Justice would be perverted,
Which then controverts the patriotic idea of
liberation.

Without individual rights,
What will define this country as "free"?
Freedom comes when we, the people,
Take defense until we all agree.

Honorable Mention Poem

By Jennifer Dos Santos
11th Grade - East Side High School

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Miranda: More Than Words

"Miranda Poem"

You have the right to remain silent
Heard so many times in movies
And television that it became a cliché
Whether overused or abused the phrase goes back to 1963

Maybe the license plate matched the story
Maybe the previous peeping tom was guilty
But there was still a conviction
Even with lack of evidence

In custody interrogation took place
Then a confession had followed suit
His confession came with unwillingness
Persuaded to do so with threats and forceful behavior

The Supreme Court brought the unfair treatment into light
Lack of evidence led to his conviction being overturned
But it led to more than freeing an innocent man
The case pushed for a person being informed of their rights

When arrested, police would recite, you have the right to remain silent
Anything you say can, and will, be used against you in court of law
You have the right to an attorney
If you cannot afford one, one will be appointed to you.

Honorable Mention Poem

**By Nathanael Burrell
East Orange STEM Academy**

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Miranda: More Than Words

"Confess"

I sat down in room silent and unaware
Several hours later the big blue monsters came armed and prepared

They came at me full speed and full blast they ate my right
One came at me screaming and yelling like political party

While I was sitting hungry and scared
They started screaming word heard

Finally finally I gave in I beg them to leave for I couldn't contest
They shook their heads and told me just confess we will handle the rest

Honorable Mention Poem

By Ronald Vincent
11th Grade - Bloomfield High School

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Miranda: More Than Words

“The Right To Justice”

When the Founding Fathers created the U.S. Constitution, they added in the first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights was created to serve as an extra layer of protection for individual liberties. In the Bill of Rights, there are two amendments that greatly impact the Criminal Justice System; these are the protection against self-incrimination found in the 5th amendment and the right to an attorney found in the 6th amendment. Guaranteeing these rights to suspects will prevent wrongful convictions in the Criminal Justice System.

In 1966, the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Miranda v. Arizona* gave suspects the right to know and understand their Miranda Rights which are the 5th amendment right to remain silent and the 6th amendment right to legal representation. As well as, the rights to face their accuser, to call witnesses on their behalf and to know the charges against them. Now police officers are required, when bringing a suspect into custody and starting interrogation, to recite the Miranda Rights to the suspect before the interrogation begins. The reasons being that most suspects are unaware of the rights they are entitled to. Without knowing their rights, suspects are likely to incriminate themselves after being pressured during intense interrogation, and the case could end up being wrongfully judged.

Thus, the Miranda Warnings have probably saved many from self-incrimination and miscarriage of justice. It has also become an iconic symbol of justice that has been used thousands of times in movies and shows. It has become a part of our Criminal Justice System that cannot be separated and must be provided because the goal of our judicial system, is to achieve justice for every case.

First Place Essay

By Stephen Zou

12th Grade - Bloomfield High School

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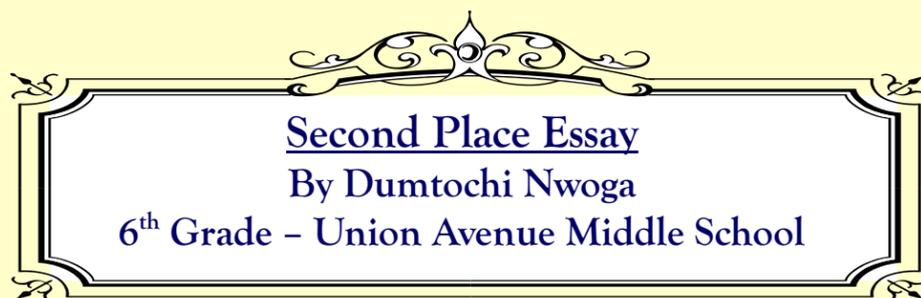
Law Day 2016

Miranda: More Than Words

Though often taken for granted by many Americans, the Amendments to the U.S Constitution are most vital when it comes to protecting individual rights. Amendments make it possible for citizens of the United States to feel as though the government cannot infringe upon their fundamental human rights; rights that men like John Locke would argue are basic and inherent. Amendments offer protection, for they insure that the government does not overstep any boundaries and respects the freedoms of individual citizens.

As a Palestinian from Lebanon, it is not very difficult to envision a world in which individual rights are not protected. Life for Palestinians in Lebanon is quite abysmal, for they are not afforded the same rights and privileges as Lebanese citizens. Because of this, tension exists between both groups and violence is the norm. I firmly believe that if amendments did not exist in the United States, such tension and violence would exist on such a large scale as well. Individual rights must be secured by all citizens, in order to ensure a peaceful and prosperous existence.

As stated above, amendments are meant to protect people from the government, yet this does not always happen as it should, for people are not always aware of the rights that are given to them. The Court's decision in Miranda v. Arizona works to change that problematic fact; as it forces law enforcement agencies and government officials to read any person their rights, allowing individuals to be less ignorant of the law, all the while protecting citizens from providing any incriminating evidence. It is extremely important that this decision be enforced, because, without it, the American ideals of justice and democracy are undermined and unprotected from their validity and the United States loses credibility as a truly democratic nation.



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Miranda: More Than Words

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Third Place Essay

By Dima Ismail

12th Grade - Bloomfield High School

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Law Day 2016

Miranda: More Than Words

"Miranda: More Than Words"

"You have the right to remain silent." Many have heard these words uttered in various places in society such as in television and film. But do individuals actually understand the meaning of them, the purpose rooted in these not-so abstract words in procedure? Or do people really only learn when their wrists are linked between two metal handcuffs and when they are seated in a room with extraneous questioning, until their patience has run dry? The US Supreme Court Case, *Miranda v. Arizona* has sparked a new kind of knowledge of individuals alike and communities as a whole. What must be continued to be taught is how these rights afforded in the Miranda Warnings are safeguarded by the courts and how individuals can understand how to protect these liberties themselves. This understanding must first come from the origin and initial purpose of the Miranda Rights in conjunction to how this policy plays a role not only in police practice but in all courts all over the US, as precedent by the US Supreme Court.

Citizens have certain due process guaranteed rights thanks to the US Constitution, but these rights cannot benefit anyone without comprehending why this process is necessary and in some cases, very vital. The *Miranda v. Arizona* case was appealed all the way to the US Supreme Court because of Miranda's ignorance to his constitutional rights during his initial arrest and custodial investigation. These rights that every citizen are entitled to from the fifth and sixth amendments are the right to remain silent, the right to an attorney, the right to a speedy trial, the right to stop questioning at any given time, the right to know charges, the right to face one's accuser, the right to call witnesses to the stand, and the right to cross examine. The Supreme Court ruled in Miranda's favor because he was unaware of these rights. If he knew, the outcome of the trial could have been different based on the evidence that was used against him.

Although the majority opinion of the US Supreme Court was written shortly after the 1966 case, 50 years later, its purpose triumphs endlessly in cases from border to border. With that said, knowing and understanding are two different intellectual standpoints, this may also be likened to hearing versus listening. For example, if a juvenile heard his fifth or sixth amendment rights, would he/she fully understand what these rights actually mean? In reality, children and teenagers in custody during a custodial investigation are only thinking about the present. In several cases, minors felt pressured to submit to authority or were willing to do anything just to "go home," especially when being threatened or talked at four hours on end all the while being hungry and tired. This is where coerced confessions and statements are the result. In order to be of benefit to society as a whole, every person must be taught the meaning of the Miranda Warnings in order to effectively invoke them.

The Miranda Rights are not merely regurgitating words from a document, they are a representation of the justice system backed by the US and a lasting legacy to be used for generations to come. Understanding the rights afforded by the Supreme Law of Land, that is the Constitution, is essential in a functioning democracy and society. Today, Americans from the Pacific to the Atlantic are safeguarded from self-incrimination as well as faults by the Criminal Justice System. The US Supreme Court Case *Miranda v. Arizona* has placed its handprint on the history of criminal justice and will continue to last ill future cases. The Miranda Rights are a driving force in ensuring confidence in the system for all parties.

Honorable Mention Essay

By Kirstie Simeon

11th Grade - Bloomfield High School

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Miranda: More Than Words

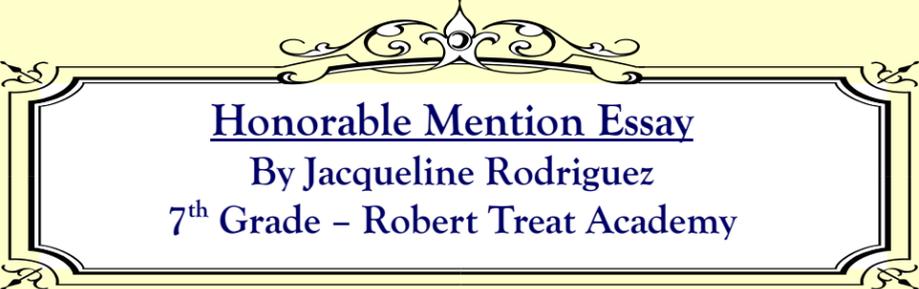
"The Privilege of Miranda"

The Miranda Rights are stated approximately 12,000,000 times a year. People typically see the Miranda Rights as something that just has to be said. Something we're designated to. But is that really it? People just aren't noticing that the Miranda Rights aren't words. They're a privilege.

The Miranda v. Arizona case is how the Miranda Rights came to be. In 1963, Ernesto Miranda kidnapped and raped a woman. The woman told the police, and they arrested Miranda. Not knowing of the fact that he could be silent, or that he could have an attorney, Ernesto confessed to his crime, and was sentenced to 20 to 30 years in prison. Miranda later went to the Supreme Court, and they sided with him on a 5-4 vote. The outcome of the Miranda v. Arizona case affected many people that were to be convicted in the coming years. It gave clear insight about the US Constitution which was established when this nation was born. It's a document that ensured our freedom, and our rights. If the Miranda Rights were never established, then would we truly be a free nation? Without the Miranda Rights, we would never really have our rights, or the freedom that every US citizen deserves.

During the Miranda v. Arizona trial Miranda's Sixth Amendment was violated. The Amendments to the Constitution are important because they outline the freedoms given to the American people. If we didn't have our Amendments, then our individual rights wouldn't be protected. Without our individual rights, then as a society, we wouldn't be equal. If a police officer has more rights than a criminal, then what are we? We wouldn't be equal, or free. We would be below someone else. Not deserving of something that someone else has.

At the end of the day, we are all American citizens. All of us have equal rights, and we all deserve the same freedom as the person next to us. It's Important to look back at our Amendments, or the Miranda Rights. To show that rights and freedom aren't things that are given to us. But, they are something that we earned. As a nation.



Honorable Mention Essay
By Jacqueline Rodriguez
7th Grade - Robert Treat Academy

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Miranda: More Than Words

Don't you hate it when you're not told everything you need to know? It can be very maddening. Well imagine if your freedom was on the line because of it. That was the problem for Ernesto Miranda.

On March 13, 1963 the Phoenix, Arizona Police Department arrested Miranda for rape and kidnapping. He went through police interrogation for two hours and signed a confession. But Miranda was never told his rights to the fifth and sixth amendments. This is wrong and would never happen today. The events that occurred on March 13 1963 would forever change the shape of the United States law system.

On September 17, 1787, the United States Constitution was finalized. Since then, there have been many amendments added to it. Amendments are variations made to a document. In America we have a Bill of Rights, which are the first ten amendments of the Constitution. We need the amendments because our country's views change over time and modifications must be made. Instead of starting a whole new legal system we make changes. If there were no amendments America would be altered. No one would have freedom of speech, religion, press, the right to peacefully assemble, or the right to a fair trial.

Due to the verdict of the Miranda v. Arizona case, less people are improperly accused of crimes they did not commit. People can be wrongly identified by police, witnesses, or victims. Without a lawyer they wouldn't have anyone to defend him or her.

Some of the benefits of the Miranda vs. Arizona case are that now people have equal rights in custody and in a court of law. We need them to make sure the US government is equal and fair to all citizens. America would be very different if this case never occurred and this stresses the importance of the case.



Honorable Mention Essay

By Zaniyah Trawick

7th Grade - Union Avenue Middle School

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