

# student activity 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Laws & Policies: Then or Now?

In small groups, discuss each law and circle the century (19th, 20th or 21st) that you think each law came into existence. The intention is not to get it right, but to share your best guess and possibly be surprised by the answers.

1. Georgia governor signs into law new voter identification requirements for absentee ballots, limits the use of ballot drop boxes and makes it a crime to approach voters in line to hand them food and water.

- a. 19th      b. 20th      c. 21st

2. Racial integration is illegal. Anyone who defies it is subject to arrest, fines, jail sentences, violence and death. Efforts to withhold basic rights (voting, holding a job, get an education) are protected by this set of laws and policies. .

- a. 19th      b. 20th      c. 21st

3. The children of migrants and asylum seekers (those who move to a different country for safety) are separated from their families to live in camps, sometimes with harsher conditions than prison.

- a. 19th      b. 20th      c. 21st

4. Racial profiling is encouraged by a policy that allows officers to stop, frisk and even detain anyone at any time.

- a. 19th      b. 20th      c. 21st

5. Japanese Americans are forced to relocate to detention camps, bringing only the belongings they could carry. Losing their homes, cars and jobs, these U.S. citizens weren't allowed to leave the camps unless they were certified as "loyal" to the U.S.

- a. 19th      b. 20th      c. 21st

6. In half the states across the country, any citizen who believes (or claims to believe) that they are under threat is protected by law if they use deadly force.

- a. 19th      b. 20th      c. 21st

7. In some states across the country, bills are passed to grant immunity to drivers who drive into crowds of protestors in public streets.

- a. 19th      b. 20th      c. 21st

8. The Supreme Court of the U.S. strikes down a New York gun safety law, making it easier for people to legally carry a handgun in public. The SCOTUS decision was made six weeks after a gunman killed 10 Black people at a supermarket.

- a. 19th      b. 20th      c. 21st

Answer Key:  
1. c, 2. a & b, 3. c, 4. b & c, 5. b, 6. c, 7. c, 8. c

# student activity 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## This Just In – Satirical Law

Follow the steps below to create an imaginary satirical law and a news brief (a short segment of broadcast news).

1. Select a topic that your law will be based on. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Determine who will be impacted by your law. Rather than a nationality, gender, orientation or race, consider these examples: students, families, pet owners, shoppers, voters, pedestrians, etc.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Write a short statement explaining your new, ridiculous law. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Give your law a satirical title: \_\_\_\_\_
5. When the breaking news is announced, where would people be interviewed to share their reaction to the new law (*i.e., school, park, city sidewalk, store, courthouse*)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the name of your news station? You could parody a popular channel or service like CNN, Fox, NBC, Hulu or YouTube. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now that your specifics are in place, use the following page to write your news brief script.

# student activity 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## This Just In – Satirical Law

Use the prompts below to write short lines for each character. Looking to amp up the humor? Check out the **Literary Toolbox** for some tips on writing satire.

### Literary Toolbox

**Hyperbole:** an over-exaggeration used to emphasize a point.

**Irony:** a situation or statement with a contrast between expectation and reality.

**Understatement:** stating something as smaller or less important than it really is.

**Parody:** imitation of a person, place or thing with exaggeration for comedic effect.

**News Anchor #1:** Welcome back to \_\_\_\_\_. This just in, a new policy was signed into law regarding

\_\_\_\_\_

**News Anchor #2:** That's right. Effective immediately, the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**News Anchor #1:** Wow, that's \_\_\_\_\_ !

Let's hear from our reporter at \_\_\_\_\_ to find out more about the public's response to this new law.

**Reporter:** Thanks, I'm here with \_\_\_\_\_ who have a lot to say about the new law. Tell me, what do you think about \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Person #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Person #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Person #3:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reporter:** Well, there you have it. The people have spoken. Back to you in the studio.

**News Anchor #2:** (response to the interviews) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**News Anchor #1:** (closing) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_