Rights in Two Constitutions

Compare federal and Oklahoma protections in everyday situations

OKH.C.5.2 "Explain how the state Constitution protects the rights of citizens by comparing the Oklahoma Constitution's Article II (Bill of Rights) to key features of the United States of America's Bill of Rights."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read and mark the passage: underline a protection shared by both constitutions, circle wording that differs, and number one protection that Oklahoma's Article II states more directly. Use your marks to compare how the two texts protect rights.

When Rights Meet Real Life

1. At a town meeting, a resident criticizes a proposed parking rule. The U.S. Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the federal Constitution, protects freedom of speech in the First Amendment. Oklahoma's Constitution adds a state-level protection in Article II, Section 22: people may speak, write, or publish their views, while remaining responsible for abuses of that right. Both texts protect public criticism from government censorship. The federal text names freedom of speech and of the press; Oklahoma's text explicitly mentions speaking, writing, and publishing. Federal speech protections also apply to state and local governments through the Fourteenth Amendment.

2. Suppose an officer wants to search that resident's home after the meeting. The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article II, Section 30 of Oklahoma's Constitution both guard against unreasonable searches and seizures. Both require warrants to rest on probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and to describe the place to be searched and the people or things to be seized. Here, the two texts use closely matching rules rather than different tests. These rules protect privacy by limiting government searches, although some searches can be lawful without a warrant.

3. Now imagine the resident suffers property damage and wants the courts to hear a claim. Article II, Section 6 of Oklahoma's Constitution says state courts must be open to every person and provide a speedy and certain remedy for injuries to person, property, or reputation. The federal Bill of Rights does not contain that same open-courts promise. Its First Amendment protects the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances. Petitioning and seeking a court remedy both offer ways to seek help, but they are not identical guarantees. Oklahoma's provision names access to state courts directly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the First Amendment and Oklahoma's Article II, Section 22 protect criticism of a government rule? Identify one difference in their wording.

2. Compare the Fourth Amendment and Article II, Section 30. Name one search protection they share and one requirement they both place on warrants.

3. How does Oklahoma's open-courts protection differ from the federal First Amendment right to petition?

4. A resident says Article II simply copies the federal Bill of Rights. Use two comparisons from the passage to explain why that claim is incomplete.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence rights advisory for an Oklahoma resident whose online post criticizes a city rule and whose backpack a city officer wants to search. Compare the federal Bill of Rights with Article II for both rights, explaining one similarity and one difference in the texts.

ANSWER KEY

Rights in Two Constitutions

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.5.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read and mark the passage: underline a protection shared by both constitutions, circle wording that differs, and number one protection that Oklahoma's Article II states more directly. Use your marks to compare how the two texts protect rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the First Amendment and Oklahoma's Article II, Section 22 protect criticism of a government rule? Identify one difference in their wording.	**Both protect criticism from government censorship. The First Amendment names speech and the press, while Section 22 explicitly mentions speaking, writing, and publishing.**
2	Compare the Fourth Amendment and Article II, Section 30. Name one search protection they share and one requirement they both place on warrants.	**Both protect against unreasonable searches and seizures. Both require warrants to rest on probable cause.**
3	How does Oklahoma's open-courts protection differ from the federal First Amendment right to petition?	**Article II, Section 6 directly promises access to state courts and a remedy for specified injuries. The First Amendment protects the right to petition the government but does not contain the same open-courts promise.**
4	A resident says Article II simply copies the federal Bill of Rights. Use two comparisons from the passage to explain why that claim is incomplete.	**The search protections closely match, but Section 22 explicitly lists speaking, writing, and publishing, while the First Amendment names speech and the press. Oklahoma also directly promises access to state courts, which the federal Bill of Rights does not state in the same way.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The First Amendment protects your criticism of the city rule, and Oklahoma's Article II, Section 22 also protects sharing your views. Both limit government censorship, while Oklahoma's wording explicitly lists speaking, writing, and publishing. The Fourth Amendment and Article II, Section 30 both protect you from unreasonable searches of your backpack. Their warrant rules closely match: both require probable cause and a description of what is to be searched or seized, although some searches without warrants can be lawful.

Accept other accurate shared warrant requirements, such as an oath or affirmation. Do not treat every search without a warrant as a violation.