

MCAT EXAMPLE BANK 2005:

1. GOVERNMENT/POLITICS-POLITICIANS-ELECTIONS

a. Category: Government/Elections/Polls

My Example: European Union ratification

Time: June 2005

-The European Union consisting of some 20+ countries of Europe had planned to mark the go ahead for a new constitution that they would create, with a new form of social democracy, and other methods in which to progress as a collaborated social body.

-Each country was to cast their vote to say "yes" for the advocating side in ruling for the constitution. Referendums were held and the nations were polled for the "yes" or "no" vote, Most of the countries have been voting "yes", but France and the Netherlands (two of the original EU nations) have voted no, which has caused concern amongst all the other nations.

-Because of this decision, the UK decided to postpone their decision as well and Prime Minister Tony Blair had soon met with President Bush for a personal meeting. But EU nations don't like how the UK is always going along with American advice, and essentially, want no influence of the U.S. in their new constructing body.

-Main idea: Governments may decide something and the people may oppose leading to future problems for allied governing nations.

b. Category: Politics

My Example: Che Guevara (1928 – 1967)

Time: 1955 - 1967

*Disclaimer – this topic might be touchy for the anti-Castro American audience. Use with caution.

-Ernesto Rafael Guevara de la Serna – commonly known as Che Guevara – was an Argentine-born doctor.

-He met Fidel Castro in 1955 in Mexico and left his medical profession to join Castro's cause of overthrowing self-proclaimed Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. Che became a renowned Guerrilla leader -In 1959, Castro's "26th of July" movement, which included Che Guevara, seized power in Cuba – Batista fled Havana

-In the new Cuban government, Guevara served as president of Cuba's national bank and as Cuba's minister of industry

-In 1966, Che left Cuba with the hopes of promoting revolutions in other countries

-He went to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and then later to Bolivia to set up Guerrilla forces.

-Che was captured in Bolivia in a CIA-organized military operation

-He was executed by the Bolivian army in October, 1967

-After his death, Guevara became a hero of third world socialist revolutionary movements – particularly as a theorist and tactician of asymmetric warfare. He also became a popular icon for revolution and youthful political ideals in Western culture

c.

1. gov't/elections

Friday, July 8, 2005

MANILA, Philippines

Members of president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's sacked cabinet, an iconic former president (Corazon Aquino) and an influential business group called on her to quit.

Arroyo, under mounting pressure to resign over allegations she tried to influence the vote counting in last year's presidential election and that members of her family took payoffs from illegal gambling, vowed on

Thursday she would not step down, and withdrawal of support at a weekend meeting of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines would almost certainly be a lethal blow.

Police raised their alert level in Manila to maximum on Friday and General Efren Abu, the military's chief of staff, ordered troops not to intervene in the deepening political crisis at a hastily called meeting of all senior commanders. Several hundred protesters, carrying placards saying "Oust Gloria now" had gathered in the business district by mid-afternoon.

Under the constitution, Vice President Noli de Castro would assume the presidency if Arroyo resigns.

There has been speculation Arroyo leaned on the Supreme Court, as it considered an opposition petition last week, to freeze a tax package that is at the heart of her economic reforms as a way to defuse public anger about rising prices. "The opposition filed it and she exploited it," one source close to the president told Reuters.

Arroyo apologized last week for a "lapse in judgment" for talking to an election official during vote-counting last year but denied rigging the results.

d. Government/Politicians - Election

Afghanistan's elections scheduled for September 18th.

- In June/July there has been a resurgence of violence
- More than 200 million in total reported to have been killed
- Western officials suggest an increase in security and an increasing number of Taliban activists surrendering under an amnesty scheme could gradually reduce the militants' effectiveness.
- Current President Hamid Karzai asked Pres. Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan to increase efforts to stop Taliban militants from crossing into Afghanistan.
- Election authorities have threaten to ban 255 candidates with links to warlords unless they disarm

e. Category: Government/Politics-Politicians-Elections

Example: Florida recount

Time: 2000 US Presidential election

- Election day (November 7, 2000) brings about an extremely close race between Al Gore and George W. Bush....it eventually becomes clear that Florida will bring in the determining votes as to who will win the presidency
- The next morning, Gore hears that he will probably lose the Florida election by 50,000 votes and calls Bush to concede. However, learning that there was actually a much smaller margin of difference (about 327 according to an unofficial release of a later machine count), Gore takes back his planned public concession.
- Numerous court battles take place over the next month concerning the procedure and validity of ballot recounts. (A more detailed timeline of events by CNN can be found at <http://edition.cnn.com/2000/ALLPOLITICS/stories/12/13/got.here/index.html>) Ultimately, the Supreme Court rules 7-2 that no recount should be considered. Gore strongly disagreed with the court's decision, but conceded the election on December 13, 2000 "for the sake of our unity as a people and the strength of our democracy".
- Following the election, recounts conducted by various U.S. news media organizations indicated that Bush would have won the most probable recount methods (including the one favored by Gore at the time of the Supreme Court decision) but that Gore would have won if other methods were adopted.
- Several irregularities are thought to have favored Bush. These include the Palm Beach "butterfly ballot", which produced an unexpectedly large number of votes Patrick Buchanan (a third-party candidate), and a purge of around 50,000 alleged felons from the Florida voting rolls that included many voters who were eligible to vote under Florida law. Such irregularities and the legal maneuvering around the recounts has cast some doubt on the legitimacy of the vote.
- Embarrassment about the Florida vote uncertainties led to widespread calls for electoral reform in the United States
- funds were provided to replace their mechanical voting equipment with electronic voting equipment. However, this has led to new controversies: the security weaknesses of the computer systems, the lack of paper-based methods of secure verification, and the necessity to rely on the trustworthiness of the manufacturers.

f.

Government and politics

My example: Albertans who can afford to pay will get enhanced health-care services

Time:

- Alberta Premier Ralph Klein has opened the door to allow those who can afford it, to pay for extra services.
- immediately begin offering - and charging - patients for items
- he doesn't believe the changes violate universality provisions in the Canada Health Act
- the province will pay for the basic package and a patient wanting an upgrade will pay the rest
- wealthier patients will not get put ahead of someone in line who's been waiting longer.
- Canada's Health minister doesn't believe that Klein violates any part of the Canada Health Act.
- extra money will bring in more money for the healthcare system, and ease the strain on funding
- services that will cost more are not medically necessary, just more comfortable or top of the line materials.

Other Alberta's health-care reforms:

Upgrades: Regulations will change to offer choice in hospital rooms and enhanced medical goods and services for those willing to pay extra.

Access: As of September, Albertans can check an online wait-list registry for information about waiting times for key treatments and information about individual surgeons.

Electronic health records: Will allow doctors and pharmacists electronic access to patient history, eliminating duplicate tests and abuse of prescription drugs.

New law: By 2006, a new Health Care Assurance Act will ensure waiting times are reasonable and describe which services will be covered by medicare and which ones could be covered by private plans.

New drug plan: Drug coverage will be studied, including a proposal to extend coverage to more Albertans and adjust how much people pay depending on their incomes. Another proposal is to join other western provinces in buying drugs in bulk.

Health workers: Expand recruitment, retention and training of health-care providers, increase participation of aboriginal people in health disciplines.

Long-term care: A study will be conducted into a proposed long-term care insurance plan. New standards to be announced for nursing homes.

g. Same sex marriage

time: 2005

- the bill for the same sex marriage is going to be passed within the next little while, and a lot of people are debating about the Federal government's constitutional right to overturn the law that is about to be passed.
- apparently if the government finds it unconstitutional, then they can abolish the law, by exercising their right to override the Charter of rights and freedoms (should they be allowed this right?)
- the government has never used this escape clause, and many don't think that they will use it against the same sex marriage case.
- Provincial courts have overturned traditional marriage because, they say, it violates the Charter of Rights guarantee of equality for all citizens.
- With the bill's passage, Canada would join the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain in legalizing same-sex marriage.
- should the government be in charge of marriage laws? why not just leave it to the churches?
- religious persecution a possibility, ministers may refuse to marry certain individuals....could get messy.

h. Government/Politics:

Tyranny & Corruption in Zimbabwe:

- dictator President, Robert Mugabe is running country into ground
- according to UN World Food Program reports, half of Zimbabwe's 11 million people are seriously hungry
- Angered by opposition to his illegal & budget-draining dispatch of 14,000 Zimbabwean troops to Congo in 1998, as well as, infuriated by the loss of a constitutional referendum & near defeat for his ruling party in parliamentary elections, Mugabe mercilessly attacked his new African opponents & their supposed white allies
- Mugabe ordered thuggish war-veterans to invade & seize the country's 4000 white farms, supposedly to take back land stolen from Africans years before
- Instead of giving that restored land to landless smallholders, nearly all 4000 farms (the backbone of Zimbabwe's agricultural prosperity) were delivered to Mugabe's political associates & family members = Zimbabwe driven into hunger = Mugabe forced to turn to Libya & China for help
- No one dares cross him; his Central Intelligence Organization, army, & police remain loyal
- Mugabe's continued rule is based on intimidation & fraud

2. WARS/INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

a. Category: War

Example: 2003 Invasion of Iraq

- After the September 11 attacks and the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the Bush administration felt that it had sufficient military justification and public support in the United States for further operations against perceived threats in the Middle East.
- Throughout 2002, the U.S. administration made it clear that removing Saddam Hussein from power was a major goal. Specifically, the stated justification for the invasion included Iraqi production and use of weapons of mass destruction, links with terrorist organizations and human rights violations in Iraq under the Saddam Hussein government.
- Many staff and supporters within the Bush administration had other, more ambitious goals for the war as well. Many propagated the claim that the war could act as a catalyst for democracy and peace in the Middle East, and that once Iraq became democratic and prosperous other nations would quickly follow suit due to this demonstration effect, and thus the social environment that allowed terrorism to flourish would be eliminated.
- Opponents of the Iraq war disagreed with many of the arguments presented by the administration, attacking them variously as being untrue, inadequate to justify a pre-emptive war, or likely to have results different from the administration's intentions. Further, they asserted various alternate reasons for the invasion. Different groups asserted that the war was fought primarily for: Energy economics, defence and construction special interests and public perception.
- Ultimately, the Iraq war was presented as largely being a case of removing banned weapons from Iraq. President Bush and members of his cabinet and staff relied heavily on intelligence reports of which the C.I.A.'s 2002 report on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction was one of the more prominent. Although the U.S had an apparent reliable source, no weapons of mass destruction were found by the Iraq Survey Group.

b. Category: Current event/war/genocide/ethnic cleansing

Time: 2003-present

Darfur

Janjaweed, the government-backed Arab militia in Sudan, was accused of an ethnic cleansing campaign against black Africans in Darfur. An estimated 70,000 civilians have been killed and approximately 1 million left homeless (estimates of the death toll vary greatly). The UN Security Council threatened the Sudanese government with sanctions if they did not disarm the militia and the US administration labeled the Darfur situation as a "genocide," but as 2004 came to a close, the international community had still failed to take any action

Taken from: <http://www.historychannel.com/timeline/>

Just to clarify there are currently 2 conflicts occurring in Sudan:

1: South: Muslims from the North vs Christian animist from the south this conflict began in 1983. estimated 2 million killed

2. Darfur: Arab government militia vs Black Africans. This conflict began in 2003

The Darfur conflict began in the arid and impoverished region early in 2003 after a rebel group began attacking government targets, claiming that the region was being neglected by Khartoum.

The rebels say the government is oppressing black Africans in favour of Arabs. Millions have fled their destroyed villages, with many heading for camps near Darfur's main towns but there is not enough food, water or medicine.

The Janjaweed patrol outside the camps and Darfurians say the men are killed and the women raped if they

venture too far in search of firewood or water. Taken from: <http://www.darfurinfo.org/bbc.html>

c. c. Category: International Relations

My Example: China and the United States

Time: 2004-present

-The People's Republic of China and the United States are two of the world's biggest economic powers (one current and one emerging). Lots of economic boost in China (greater percentage increase in GDP every year than the U.S.) has Americans worried about the rise of the communist nation.

-Reason: Good relation in terms of economy, but tense in terms of political power and gov't.

-Lots of input in the economic relationship from both sides; China owes U.S. billions of \$ in debt, U.S. relies on mass goods being imported from China at an extremely low price, both countries out to get and exploit the same resources (oil, mining materials, agriculture, etc.)

-Politically tense from both sides; as much as they are economic partners and as good as the relations have been in years, China/U.S. also have a power struggle. The two pacific giants (Jap. & Chn.) have always had bitter relations and recently China has targetted Taiwan to attack due to historic relations. The U.S. is willing to back Taiwan and protect it against any attack from China .

-Main point: Economic allies do not necessarily have to be political allies - friend & foe!!!

d. Category: Wars/ International Relations

My Example: U.S. versus U.N.

The United States and the United Nations have clashed many times since the U.N. was founded on June 26, 1945, over waging and stopping conflicts. Weather the U.S., being the most powerful nation on Earth, should have a greater influential control on the U.N. is the major predicament between this association.

As we have seen in the past, the U.S. has attempted to control the U.N. After Boutros Boutros-Ghali became secretary-general of the United Nations in 1992, the U.S. would seek to advise him what policies to pursue, who to meet, and what to say. For example, Boutros-Ghali was planning to give a speech in Washington in 1993, and so Madeleine Albright, then the **United States'** U.N. ambassador, called him and told him not to be critical of the **United States'** failure to pay its debts to the **United Nations**. He, however did not follow her directions, and was out of a job in 1997 with a strong aid from the Clinton administration.

In a recent interview with The Chronicle, Boutros-Ghali claimed "A secretary-general has to have good relations with the U.S. if he wants to be successful. This is even more so today."

e. Category: War/ International Relations

My example: Assassination of Somalian Peace Activist

Year: 2005

- Somalia has been in a national chrisis since 1991, when the central government was overthrown

- today, there have been efforts to enable the country's government and parliament

- one individual who has been involved with these efforts was Abdulkadir Yahya

- this past week, Yahya was assassinated in his home, after he tried to reconcile the President and the parliament speaker, who have disagreed where to locate the government and whether it needs peacekeepers to establish control over Somalia

f. International Affairs/ wars

-the recent attacks on the transit system of London

- 57 people perished and hundreds were injured as a result of supposed terrorist's bombings

-this occured in the morning during rush hour where the transit system was packed

-upon analyzing the attacks and the evidence, officals believe that it was the works of an affiliated group of the Al-qadea

-this attack happened after british officials decided to reduce their security force for terrorists attacks

-Prime minister Tony Blair was also being criticized by citizens for focusing too much efforts on the war against terrorism

- Such an attack draws the US and England closer together - for the fight against terrorism

However it increases tension around the world

-It is also ironic how citizens felt that Tony Blair devoted too much of his efforts against terrorists attack, but after this attack near home citizens will feel the need to support their prime minister

g.

Category: War or International Relations

My Example: British Prime Minister Tony Blair on climate change, African poverty and American Presidents

Time: July 11, 2005

-the British Prime Minister Tony Blair's vision in creating the g-8 agenda focuses mainly on climate change and aid to Africa. He spoke with Time's London bureau Chief J.F.O. McAllister about his vision for the summit and how it differs from that of President George W. Bush.

- In his view, worldwide [including America] contribution to education, HIV/AIDS, the main killer diseases, building African peacekeeping force is very necessary in order to reach the millennium development goals [as targets for poverty reduction agreed to in 2000]

-He agrees on the fact that science is clear that human activity is contributing to global warming, and that it is an issue that has to be tackled urgently. Keeping in mind that America won't sign up to [Kyoto agreement], he puts forward the idea of introducing a process that help bind developed countries with India and China, who are major consumers of energy. When asked for setting summit targets, he responded that g-8 is not a place where one can negotiate a new climate change treaty.

H. Humanitarian Needs to Pre-Emptive Strikes: The Latest Swing

Possible Question: Compare the US-led intervention into Iraq with arguments in favour of an international intervention into the Darfur region of Sudan. What are the differences between these two interventions? How are they each justified? What do these differences tell us about the nature and operation of international institutions and governance?

General Analyses: One of today's most heated debates touches on the concepts of sovereignty, human rights and the need for military intervention. According to Encarta Dictionary, an intervention is "an action undertaken in order to change what is happening or might happen in another's affairs, especially in order to prevent something undesirable." Many debates and issues arise within this topic whether it was an economical matter, an authority struggle or simply a morality dilemma. State Interventions are likely launched as a result of humanitarian causes and violations of human rights. The case in Darfur where disease, hunger and genocide is spreading is repulsively shocking and unacceptable (2.6 million people affected). Yet, there is no solid response from the global community and a general ignorance to the needs of those civilians. On the other hand, a new drift of interventions has emerged, the pre-emptive war. The pre-emptive doctrine promotes the attack of organizations that pose a threat to national security in order to prevent their imminent and anticipated aggression. A prime example is the recent ongoing war in Iraq in which America and its allies have attacked to prevent Saddam's regime from posing a security threat to their nations. It is clear that governments of the west, namely the United States and Britain, are altering their state intervention doctrines from those of humanitarian causes to those of pre-emptive actions. "The use of military force to protect human life had been an international priority," but "when the dust of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon settled, humanitarian intervention became a tertiary issue." This recent shift in how governments respond to crisis in which genocide and ethnic cleansing is being practiced to how they serve their own state interests is rather remarkable. The question then becomes clear; will humanity witness a safer and more prosperous world due to such policy shift from humanitarian interventions to pre-emptive actions or will the world experience more famine and tyranny?

Some Theory: Sovereignty is a "legal right [that] ensures states juridical equality, political independence, and territorial integrity." Sovereignty "is impossible without the assurance of nonintervention." Sovereignty also encompasses the duty to protect the citizens within its borders. For a military intervention to occur, many factors must be fulfilled before the action is taken. First, all other diplomatic solutions must have been attempted and intervention is the last resort. Secondly, the intention must be valid with no hidden national interests. Also, proportionality must be taken in account so less suffering is created while the mission is underway. Finally, there has to be an authorization of such action most likely by the UN.

Final Thoughts: Can nations ignore humanitarian crisis for being too involved in preventative measures? Absolutely

not; there are situations where genocide and ethnic cleansing is just more troublesome than an 'imminent' threat. The current situation in Darfur calls the world for urgent help. The statistics and the deteriorating situation need no advertisement to invite first world countries. The dilemma is just too great to ignore. If similar incidences were to occur, many more lives will be lost. There must be a line drawn for authorities in charge of genocide, crossing that line and committing more crimes should put them in trouble. Obviously promises must be complemented by actions just to make the procedure and enforcement more credible. And so to address part of the problem, less humanitarian interventions will probably lead to a world that is generally not safer.

How much can we rely on humanitarian interventions? One could argue that too little humanitarian intervention is being taken rather than too much. There is always room for more interventions to occur. There are many incidences that are being looked over daily. With more U.N. lead military involvements, supported by multilateral forces, humanitarian interventions could become a norm that is most relied on to keep world peace. Those interventions, although having a moderate success rate, can be quite helpful in creating a more prosperous world where equality and balance is maintained. Those moderate success rates could only go higher with more international approval and a strong commitment from governments.

Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) could never accomplish this task of keeping world order by themselves. NGOs lack the infrastructure, networking and financial resources to build a complete long term solution. Without the help of governments through diplomacy and ultimately military interventions, the situation will only worsen.

i. Category: International Relations

Example: G8 Summit

Time: July 2005

- The G8 "Group of Eight" nations began in 1975 with only 5 countries and has grown to include 8 of the wealthiest countries in the world. It currently includes: the United Kingdom, France, Japan, the United States, Canada, Italy, Russia and Germany. This structure and administration of this organization is subject to change.

- The purpose of the G8 summit is to discuss the major issues of the day to achieve goals on a global scale.

- Some of the G8 summits previous achievements:

Ø Global fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Between the G8 they have given \$1.4 billion to this fund.

Ø New relationship with Africa with the G8 African Action plan in response to the African-led New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

Ø Making safe nuclear facilities in Russia, through the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. \$20 billion was pledged over 10 years for this.

Ø Launching the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, to cancel debts of the poorest countries.

- The main themes for the 2005 summit were Africa (as the world's poorest continent) and climate change which affects the world as a whole.

- As a result of this years summit, Blair (as the host of the meeting) pledged for the G8 to double their aid to \$50 Billion a year by 2010, reduce trade barriers, cancel debts of many countries and do more to fight diseases (AIDS/Malaria). However, little conclusions have been drawn about the issue of climate change.

j. Chevron

In April of 2005 Chevron, a U.S. energy giant, struck a deal with Unocal, another energy company, to buy it for \$16.5 billion dollars.

Everything was fine until China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC) made an offer of \$18.5 billion dollars. Under normal circumstances the deal would have been completed, by having either Chevron increasing its bid or stepping out of the way to let CNOOC win the bid.

Instead what has happened is that Chevron launched a fierce lobbying effort against CNOOC in Washington, and the U.S. Congress has been receptive to their concerns. The problem is not so much CNOOC, which is a much smaller company, but the fact that 70 per-cent of the company is owned by the Chinese government. The Chinese see this as simply a business transaction, while the U.S. sees it as a concern of national security. With the recent tensions between the two countries regarding trade, military and other political issues, this situation is another

critical junction in their relationship, and still remains to be resolved.

3. THE NATION/CITIZENSHIP/DEMOCRACY

a. Category: National/Democracy

Example: Re-opening of US borders to Canadian cattle

Time: July 9 2005

A court ruling has been in place for 2 years which closed US borders to Canadian cattle after a Canadian cow imported from Alberta was found to have mad cow disease.

This resulted in Canada's beef industry losing 7 billion dollars as well as the loss of business of US packing plants which slaughtered thousands of Canadian cows for business.

After a cow in Texas was found recently to have the mad cow disease, the court ruling was called into question. The US government is now hopeful of overturning the court ruling by next week.

However, there is concern about a court hearing in Montana where protectionist ranchers group is trying to get the border permanently closed to Canadian cattle. They will argue that three cases of mad cow disease from Canada show that Canadian cattle is unsafe.

b. Current Issues in Canadian Health/Medicine:

“Chinese immigrants offered breast cancer screening information in mother tongue”

Summary:

Older Chinese women in Alberta are being offered translators for breast cancer treatment. This is because it was found that, on average, immigrants receive less medical screening in Canada (esp. elders, due to communication difficulties). So mammograms are now being offered to these women in their own community, where people speak their own language. This early detection of breast cancer via mammograms is important to avoid additional medical costs in the long run.

Possible MCAT related themes/ Analysis of this issue:

One minority/ part of the society is taking advantage of national funds and taxpayer's money. It should be offered to every immigrant seeking medical aid. If it's only being offered to the Chinese, then the funds should be generated within the community. If not, this will create a bias between the minority groups.

“Don't keep drug safety data secret, panel advises”

Health Canada is being advised to disclose the criteria it uses to approve a drug as “safe” for public use. This is because if a drug company is asking for approval from HC, it can do its own independent study and arrive on conclusions and avoid the lengthy procedure of drug testing for safety. Health Canada is moving towards that direction, and will gradually release that information

Possible MCAT themes/ Analysis:

-Government giving too much power to corporations. Corporations will do

what's best for their own interest, as opposed to HC, which is concerned with the overall health of the Canadian population.
There is a risk that these pharmaceutical corporations might change or modify these guidelines to better suit them.
As long as HC has the "final say", it should be ok.

c. Terrorism in Canada

in light of the recent attacks on London, many Canadian officials wonder if similar attacks will occur in Canada. This is due to a "check-list" posted by Al-Qaeda on a web-site that lists countries under terrorist threat. The only two countries on the provided list not "hit" to this date are Canada and Italy.

-Martin Rudner, Director of CCIS, Canada's version of the CIA, and other members of Parliament are down playing the threat by offering weak hope, indicating there is nothing of importance in Canada that affects the global community.

-Other specialists such as Prof. Akbar Ahmed, who is considered the world's leading authority on contemporary Islam, are offering a stern warning to the Canadian government on upping security in Canada, especially places that directly affect the USA. These places include shared Power Grids, Nuclear power stations, Western Oil and gas stocks, etc...

-It is of popular belief among experts that if the US is found to be impenetrable, then the next best thing is Canada

d. Category: Nation/Citizenship/Democracy

My Example: Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act

Time: 1885

1858 gold rush in British Columbia, Chinese immigrants begin entering Canada

1881-1885 Canadian Pacific Railway built, Chinese immigrants were employed

1885 CPR completed and Federal Government passed Head Tax, \$50 per head

1900 Head Tax increased to \$100

1903 Head Tax increased to \$500

1923 Chinese Immigration Act, excluding most Chinese immigrants from entering Canada. The law impacted the development of Chinese Canadian families.

Chinese men were unable to bring their families resulting in a long separation.

1988 Federal Government redress Japanese Canadians' treatment during WWII

Today Canadian government has not apologized to the Chinese community

- Show quoted text -

4. LAWS/JUSTICE

a. Category: Law and justice

My Example: Sandra Day O'Connor

Time: 1981-2005

Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman on the Supreme Court. She was a moderate conservative who, on numerous occasions, had the deciding swing vote. Her votes shaped the way the justice system works in the United States of America. A couple of examples of this would be her stance on affirmative action (*Grutter vs Bollinger*) and abortion (*Roe vs Wade*)

In *Roe vs Wade* (1973): It was decided that it is a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion.

In *Grutter vs Bollinger* (2003): O'Connor cast the decisive vote against the University of Michigan Law School's admission policy by voting in favour of affirmative action.

These cases set a precedence and have caused a change in the American justice system.

She recently retired in 2005 after serving for approximately 24 years in the supreme court. There is now a large debate on who the new appointee should be. Their votes will shape the future of the American justice system, and thus it is very important for both Democrats and Republicans to try to have someone who believes in their ideologies.

d. **Law/ Justice**

-50 years ago in part of the North West Territory (what is now Nunavut) there was a mass slaughter of Inuit Sled Dogs by the RCMP (approx. 20 000).

-this has led to raging controversy between people of the North and the Canadian Government

-Nunavut Legislature passed a unanimous motion in favour of an inquiry in what they believe was a conscious police government strategy of forcibly corralling Inuit people into settlements; by removing their sled dogs that were key in their nomadic way of life.

-In the past the government played down the seriousness of the situation and even recently, although Ottawa has started their own inquiry, they have decided not to conduct a proper public investigation headed by a judge.

-Some believe that the real problem stems from the RCMP doing a bad job of explaining to the Inuit what they were doing with the dogs. But there is NO official RCMP account of any killing on record.

e. Category: **Laws and Justice**

My Example: **CANADA – Private Health Care VS Public Health Care.**

Time: **June 2005**

- George Zeliotis, a patient of family physician Jacques Chaoulli, has been waiting for a year for hip-replacement surgery.

- When he discovered that he could not pay privately for his surgery in Canada, Dr. Chaoulli and Mr. Zeliotis challenged Quebec's Hospital Insurance Act and Health Insurance Act which, prohibits private insurance from paying for publicly insured medical services.

- Proponents agree with the Supreme Court – which held that, where lack of timely health care can result in death, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms' protection of life is engaged and, where it can result in serious psychological and physical suffering, the protection of "security of the person" is triggered.

- The fear is that it will lead to a two-tier health care system

- Quebec's attorney general warned that allowing the private system to grow would draw medical personnel away from the public system, damaging the quality of care.

d. **Law**

My example: Pharmacists right to refuse dispensing birth control if it doesn't coincide with their morals or beliefs

Time: 2005

- Law makers in 26 states in the US have introduced bills that would give pharmacists the right to refuse dispensing birth control, or any emergency contraceptives.

- Many laws now make pharmacists refer patients to other pharmacists to get their prescriptions filled, but many US lawmakers are now giving pharmacists the right to refuse service and refuse referrals.

- A few states are placing laws that would require pharmacists to put their beliefs aside and serve the patients.

- Pharmacists share legal, ethical, clinical liability for their dispensing decisions. They share the liability with the doctor. So should they be given the right to refuse service?

Underlying principle of abortion is present in this issue

e. More security council seats in the UN

Time: 2005

Brazil, Germany, Japan and India have introduced a U.N. General Assembly resolution to add six permanent seats to the council, four for themselves and two for Africa, and four nonpermanent seats.

The United States on Tuesday firmly rejected a resolution by Brazil, Germany, Japan and India to expand the 15 member security council, and advised the other 191 other nations to vote against it.

the current security council reflects the world how it was 60 years ago

The General Assembly speeches indicated a majority, but not necessarily the required two-thirds, favored the resolution.

in order to accompany the change, the UN charter would have to change, and thus USA, France, Russia, UK, and china would have a right to Veto the change in the charter.

U.S. Senate would determine whether any expansion makes the council more or less effective, and the Bush administration wanted no change.

f. Topic: Laws/Justice

Source: Time (May 23, 2005)

- James West is a Washington State's senate majority leader. He is rumoured to be homosexual and alleged predilection for boys. A paper known as the Spokesman-review investigated his personal life for months and released a paper that started "For a quarter-century, the man who is now Spokane's mayor has used position of public trust, as a sheriff's deputy, Boy Scout leader and powerful politician, to develop sexual relationships with boys and young men."

-The paper had printed Internet exchanges between the mayor and the paper's hired computer-forensics expert posing as a 17-year-old boy. West was the first to bring up the topic of sex, and arranged a first date with this 'supposed' boy. On the day of the date, the boy never showed up and 3 people from the Spokesman-Review were there to witness the mayor's hopeful arrival.

5. BUSINESS PRACTICES

a. Category: Business

Topic: Using private land for business development

Time: June 2005

On June 24, 2005 in the US, the Supreme Court made a ruling that allows the government to take private land for business development by companies such as Target and Home Depot. Large retailers are currently expanding into urban residential areas. "Eminent Domain" is a legal principle that permits the government to take private property for public use (such as building schools, roads, bridges) in exchange for compensation. The government has extended this "eminent domain" to retailers due to potential generation of tax revenue and creation of jobs.

The Supreme Court's decision will enable local governments to seize urban homes and businesses, even against their will, for private and public economic development. This ruling allows new business opportunities, but at the cost of public rights. It also greatly affects small businesses because the presence of large companies such as Wal-mart may jeopardize their success. Companies such as Target and Wal-Mart have been criticized for using eminent domain to open franchises, especially in the East Coast of the US where population density is very high, making it difficult for businesses to expand.

Go here for article:

http://money.cnn.com/2005/06/23/news/fortune500/retail_importantdomain/index.htm

b.

Category: Business Practices

My example: Martha Stewart

Time: 2004

Martha Stewart is a popular American television and magazine personality known for her cooking, gardening, etiquette, and arts and crafts projects, and as a general lifestyle guide and homemaker. Starting in 2002, her career was rocked by a scandal involving her sale of shares in a drug company days before its application for a new drug was denied. She was eventually convicted of lying to investigators and sentenced to prison in 2004.

In 2002, Stewart was under investigation for alleged insider trading for selling 3,928 shares of ImClone Systems in December 2001 -- an allegation that has never been substantiated nor prosecuted in a court of law. On December 28, the Food and Drug Administration announced it would not review ImClone's application for Erbitux, which the company touted as a promising cancer drug. ImClone's stock plunged over 70% in the month after the news came out. Stewart has been a friend of ImClone founder Samuel Waksal, who has since pleaded guilty to six counts of wrongdoing related to insider trading before the announcement.

On June 6, 2002, the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, which was already investigating dubious ImClone trading, announced that it was probing Stewart's stock sale. Through all the investigation and allegation, Stewart kept her public persona intact, focusing on her homemaking specialties and downplaying or ignoring the increasing clamor for answers about her role in the scandal.

On June 4, 2003, a federal grand jury in Manhattan indicted Stewart and her former broker Peter Bacanovic on nine criminal counts from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). By selling when she did, the government alleged Stewart avoided losses of \$45,673. The charges included securities fraud, obstruction of justice, and conspiracy. Stewart was not indicted on the original charge of insider trading, but only for the cover-up that ensued. Stewart maintained her innocence, pleading not guilty, saying she had a standing order with Bacanovic to sell her shares if ImClone stock fell below \$60.

The SEC later filed a related civil suit against Stewart with charges of insider trading. Her trial began on January 20 in New York City presided over by U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum. During the trial, Stewart maintained her innocence. On February 27, 2004, Judge Cedarbaum threw out the charge of securities fraud against Stewart. This was the most serious charge; it could have led to up to 10 years in prison with a million dollar fine. The judge called the charge "unfounded" and said that "no jury could feasibly find it to be accurate."

On March 5, 2004, Stewart was found guilty by a jury of eight women and four men on all four remaining counts against her: conspiracy, obstruction of justice, and two counts of making false statements.

c. Category: Business Practices

My Example: Microsoft

Time: 1997 - 2002

- The United States Justice Department charged that Microsoft was building an illegal monopoly around its web browser, Internet Explorer, charging that the software giant violated the Sherman anti-trust agreement involving its Internet browser software, through the Windows 95 software.

- They allege that Microsoft attempted to forcefully remove its chief competitor in the internet browser market, Netscape Navigator, by requiring that all personal computer makers who installed Windows 95 to also install the company's Internet Explorer browser. In addition, Microsoft had also instituted policies of exclusionary restrictions by not allowing any easy means of removing Internet Explorer or preventing any additional competing browsers that have been installed on the PC from being displayed in greater prominence than the Internet Explorer program.

- The justice Department was seeking the federal judge to force Microsoft to stop requiring personal computer makers to license and distribute Internet Explorer in order to buy Windows 95; notify Windows 95 users they don't have to use Internet Explorer; give consumers instructions on how to remove Internet Explorer from their computers; and fine Microsoft \$1 million dollars a day until the company changes its policy.

- In 1999, U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson ruled that Microsoft Corp. possesses monopoly power in the market for PC operating systems and harmed consumers through its anti-competitive behavior. In 2000, the federal judge ruled Microsoft violated the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.
- In 2002, the Justice Department and Microsoft reached a settlement, which only imposed a series of restrictions on Microsoft's business practices, instead of attempting to pursue any major structural changes. Despite this agreement, the America On-line (AOL) company, on behalf of its subsidiary company Netscape, managed to sue Microsoft for \$750 million for damages caused by unfair competition practices.
- Taken together, Microsoft was given permission to continue many of its previous business practices by licensing its browser software to AOL Time Warner for seven years and by agreeing to work together with AOL on future Internet-based technology.
- THEREFORE: Microsoft basically just got a "slap on the wrist".

d. Topic: Business Practices

Example: Conrad Black

Time: 2005

- Canadian business icon
- Became known world wide as newspaper baron (ie. National Post, Chicago-Sun Times, New York Sun – as well as 100s of dailies in the U.S., England, Australia and Israel)
- 1999- Reached pinnacle of success – British government moved to make him a 'Lord Black'
- 2003 – Black stepped down as CEO of company, Hollinger International, following findings that Black and other senior executives had received 32 million in unauthorized payments
- 2004 – U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission published publicly a report that accused Black and other executives of taking hundreds of millions of dollars that they were not entitled to
- 2005 March – U.S. authorities opened a criminal investigation regarding his activities and Ontario stock market regulators filed notice they would launch proceedings against Black for violation of securities laws.
- 2005 May - caught removing files on security camera from headquarters in Toronto (despite court order)
- Questions integrity, power of authority, business code of ethics

e. Drug safety awareness

The Canadian government is stressing that Health Canada should make known to the public all the data it uses to approve a drug. There are many issues that are instigating this new rule.

Drug safety has been a problem when pain medications are used

- Vioxx which is a pain killer used mostly by patients with rheumatoid arthritis was once banned but is now being voted back into the market. It was banned because research showed that it increased the risk of heart attacks and strokes. The panel/ government states that the liability and decision to take the drug should be between the doctor and the patient

- Also a man in Ontario is filing a class action lawsuit due to medication he took for Parkinsons disease called Mirapex He displayed drastic side effects, some of which include compulsive gambling, an increase in appetite and a high sexual drive

f. Martha Stewart Case:

- Former CEO Samuel Waksal admitted to insider trading by tipping family members to sell company's stock just before announcing the Food and Drug Administration rejected an application for ImClone's key drug Erbitux

- Martha Stewart, friend of Waksal, dumped her shares before the announcement was made; her broker notified her that the head of ImClone was selling his stock. Martha was charged by the Federal Court in Manhattan on June 4, 2003 under the indictments of security fraud and obstruction of justice for issuing news releases to allegedly prop up stock prices of her own company, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.

- This case challenges corporate power and corporate ethics and opens the public's eyes to the idea of how much scandalism may be occurring in the stock market without people's awareness.

- This case also addresses the issue of celebrity punishment; is Martha really feeling the consequences of her actions or is her fame her ticket out?

6. MORALITY & ETHICS

- a. - how much of a company's doings should the employees have access to?
- the example of Enron, where the top execs took off with over a billion dollars and left the investors and employees with nothing
- both sides of the story
- if one person knows too much information, the company may be subject to that person divulging information about the company (insider trading etc)
- if the company does not tell the people what is going on, how secure are there jobs?
- question then, how much are the employees entitled to know? If something does happen, who's to blame...does it depend on the balance of information and power?
- Enron is kind of a cliché but corporate responsibility is a large problem in today's society

b. Morality/Ethics:

Is God In Our Genes:

- In a recent times magazine they investigated as to whether the level spiritualness one feels towards a religion could be explained by a particular gene.
- Hamer is the scientist responsible for making such a claim - he theorizes that a gene that codes for the production of a neurotransmitter could be the answer for our feelings of spirituality.
- He believes through evolution it has allowed for this gene to survive
- this reductionist approach taken by Hamer has stirred controversies in some religions.
- some believe that you cannot cut faith down to the lowest denominator of genetic survival.
- Others argue that every thought we think and every feeling we feel can be explained by the activity of the brain.
- even some religions such as buddhism believe that we inherit a spirituality gene from the person we were in our previous life. It is possible that buddhists would find Hamer's theory possible.
- the underlying question is whether we should use science to question our religious beliefs.

c. Aids funding from the US

The Bush administration has made new rules concerning agencies that are trying to fight the battle against Aids. The new rule states that all agencies that require federal funding should promote anti-prostitution rules. The agencies would have to sign a form stating that they are against prostitution and sex trafficking. Furthermore, they have to inform people about the failures of condoms. Also foreign family planning groups, receiving U.S federal funds are instructed to not discuss the possibility of abortion with their clients

Although, Bush and Kent Hill (the global health administrative) see this as a positive step towards a safe and moral society, many are concerned about the side effects of this approach.

Primarily, it is enforcing sexual abstinence as opposed to raising awareness

Secondly, it will openly condemn prostitutes making them feel disgraceful in the eyes of society.

Another concern is that it might harm some important programmes

Lastly, it infringes on U.S based charities constitutional rights to freedom of expression.

d. The use of steroids as performance enhancing drugs has been part of

Major League Baseball (MLB) for many years, but was never brought into the limelight until recently. A policy had existed in professional baseball to penalize players if they used these drugs, but it was never strictly enforced as many people feel that owners and league officials turned a blind eye to these activities. The reasoning was that these drugs made players better and in turn they were able to hit more home runs and bring in higher ticket sales and revenues.

A federal grand jury started an investigation into the use of illegal performance enhancing drugs as it indicted a company called Balco which was accused of running a steroid-distribution ring. Many famous players were called to testify and their testimony revealed their use of these illegal drugs to enhance performance. This led to a further inquiry by a U.S. House of Representatives committee which called many players and league officials to testify about the use of drugs in their

sport and to adopt a stricter drug-testing policy. Major League Baseball soon adopted a steroid-testing policy in which first-time offenders are named publicly and given a 10-day suspension, a 30-day suspension for a second positive test, 60 days for a third infraction and a full year for a fourth.

Issues that have arisen as a result of this is Whether the policy effectively stamps out steroid use. Should the use of steroids be considered an illegal act? What kind of message are these players sending to kids who consider them as role models?

e. Category: Morality and Ethics

My Example: CANADA - André Bergeron, who assisted in the suicide of his wife, Marielle Houle.

Time: July 2005

-Marielle Houle, 44, suffered from Friedreich's ataxia, a progressive neurological disorder. Neighbours described how intense pain caused her to scream for hours, and how her son, Eric, commented on how Marielle Houle wanted to die. She died Sunday, after slipping into a coma late last week. The husband is currently charged with her death, but Marielle's sister is rallying behind André Bergeron.

- Marielle's sister commented on how "He fed her, he washed her, he'd take her to the hairdresser so she could feel like other people."

- Marielle asked several times to die because she had a sister and brother who suffered the same disease and she didn't want her health to deteriorate any further

- 12 years ago, the Supreme Court rejected a request to invalidate legislation outlawing assisted suicide

- A Quebec MP has introduced a private member's bill to Commons, in an attempt to amend the Criminal Code; indicating when assisted suicide would be permitted. One of the restrictions being confirmation of the diagnosis from two doctors

- Sparks the debate on the "right-to-die" question

- Opponents say that permitting assisted suicide invokes subjective interpretations about quality of life.

- Proponents say that people should have the right to die, and be allowed assistance, if they clearly state their will to die.

- No decision has been reached on whether to charge the husband, André Bergeron, in the murder of his wife. Crown prosecutors are awaiting autopsy results and a psychiatric assessment of Bergeron before determining what the charge should be changed to.

- The private member's bill is to be debated in September

f. Category: Morality/Ethics

My Example: The Nancy Oliveri Case

Time: 1998

While Dr. Nancy Oliveri, a Canadian hematologist, was treating patients with a promising drug, she noticed dangerous side effects in some subjects. In order to comply with her ethical responsibilities she warned her patients, reported the findings to her Research Ethics Board and published her findings. However her actions were in direct conflict with the confidentiality clause of her contract with the sponsor. The Drug Company sued Dr. Oliveri for \$20 million.

Dr. Oliveri demonstrated ethical composure despite being abandoned by her colleagues, the university and the hospital she worked for and despite being fully aware of the legal consequences of her actions.

g. Morality/Ethics

Subject: Pharmacists denying birth control

Time: 2005

-Recently there has been problems with pharmacists failing to deliver birth control and morning-after pills because it is against their religion. There are arguments regarding abortion being plausible for religious dispute but contraception being a totally different subject.

-This is especially a problem when it comes to the morning-after pill since time is an issue (there is usually a 72-hour window within which the morning-after pill must be taken)

-Legislature does not know whether to side with women in need or with pharmacist professionals and their morals

-Some states have allowed pharmacists to refuse handing out birth control, some states force pharmacists to dispense contraceptives without questions asked, and a middleground proposition has been made where all pharmacists must have staff on-site that are willing to dispense birth control.

The article can be found here:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4425603.stm>

7. SCIENCE/RESEARCH

a. Category: Science and Research

Example: Using mice models to study aggression in humans

Time: July 6 2005

Scientists at the University of British Columbia Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics found that deleting a gene that affects brain development in mice causes them to become highly aggressive.

When mutant embryos of these mice were given the human version of the missing gene they became much less aggressive.

Scientists hope to use mice as models to study aggression in humans for gene therapy for aggression in humans. This is the first time a human gene is being used to study brain and behaviour in mice.

Researchers have found that this gene named NR2E1 resides on chromosome 6 of the human genome. Mice that were homozygotes and heterozygotes for the gene showed normal behaviour while those without the gene showed severe aggression. During the experiments scientist made sure to control for environmental factors.

Ethical questions have arisen concerning the research. The McGill Centre of Medicine, Ethics and the Law are concerned that some countries or groups may try to use genetically modified humans to create soldiers who will be more aggressive killers.

b. Category: Science

Time: 2005

Topic: G8 and climate change

-G8 leaders were set to discuss several issues at hand during their conference Friday, one of the priorities they touched upon was global warming and climate change. They agreed that fossil fuels are the most contributing form of greenhouse gases that are destroying our planet and that these gases need to be controlled by human activity, or lack thereof.

-November 1st is the date that is being set for changes to start taking place and there has been a pledge by the leaders that a larger range of dialogue will occur at this time.

-It can be argued that due to China and India's large population that their output of gases will also increase if they are not included in this Action Plan.

c. 2. science/research

july 2005

Jesse Sullivan from Tennessee in the US is the world's first 'bionic man'. He lost both his arms after receiving an electric shock at work, and despaired that he would never live independently again. Scientists at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) had replaced the 58-year-old electrician's left arm with a special "bionic" arm - a mechanical device directed by his own brain.

Called neuro-engineering, the new technology literally connects people to machines. The four major nerves, which used to go down Jesse's arms, were dissected from his shoulder and transferred on to his chest muscles. The nerves grew into the muscles, which then allowed him to direct his senses through his own brain impulses.

"They said my chest could go numb when they put in the nerves, but I was not using it anyway.

Dr Todd Kuiken, Director of Neural Engineering Center for Artificial Limbs at the RIC, said this was the first time a nerve-muscle graft had been used to connect an artificial limb and that they were constantly trying to improve Jesse's arm. Jesse can currently feel sensations in his arm when his chest is pressed. "When you touch Jesse's chest it feels like you are touching the skin on his hands or his thumb or pinkie."

Now the scientists are hoping to add special sensors to his hands to allow him to feel how hard he is squeezing something, but Dr Kuiken said this was still in the laboratory stage. Since Jesse's operation another three amputees have trialed the technology and in two cases the future is also looking good.

"RIC is excited about the unmistakable potential our research has to help the US military personnel returning from war after suffering amputation.

"In fact, we are actively engaged in a proposal process to revolutionise prosthetics with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency of the US Department of Defence."

d. Category: Science and Research

My Example: Overuse of antibiotics in China

Time: July 11, 2005

-overuse of antibiotics in China is breeding new strains of drug-resistant bacteria.

-contributing to one of the most troubling issues facing medicine today.

-to many Chinese patients, antibiotics are silver bullets: a cure for every thing from skin infections to life threatening lung ailments. According to the China Medicine Development and Research Center, 70% of drug prescriptions in China are for antibiotics, compared with roughly 30% in the West.

-worldwide, overuse of antibiotics is increasing the resistance of bacteria to drugs, leading to virulent infections.

-in Asia more than 90% of some bacteria species have developed strong immunity to frequently administered antibiotics such as penicillin and ampicillin, according to the World Health Organization.

-health care experts now fear that widespread misuse of antibiotics in populous developing countries such as China will accelerate the emergence of new strains of super germs, making everything from common diseases like pneumonia to routine surgery more dangerous.

-In the US, where experts estimate that half of all antibiotic prescriptions are unnecessary, about 90,000 people died from antibiotic-resistant infections last year, up from 13,000 in 1992.

e. -US: A bill was recently passed that extends funding to research on embryonic stem cell lines that was nonexistent in 2001, when Bush limited funding to lines in existence at the time.

-Rep. Mike Castle, the Delaware Republican who introduced the bill, said it "draws a strict ethical line by only allowing federally funded research on stem cell lines that were derived ethically from donated embryos determined to be in excess."

-President Bush threatened to veto the bill expanding public funding for embryonic stem cell research but did not carry out his threat.

-Some Republicans had called on the president to alter his stance, including former first lady Nancy Reagan. Her husband's long battle with Alzheimer's disease helped draw attention to the issue.

-According to scientists, many if not all of the previous lines are now contaminated and unusable (CNN).

f. *Scientists Identify a SARS receptor*

- SARS = an infection of the lungs causing lung failure, possibly death. It is highly contagious

- SARS protein, 'spike', reduces ACE2 expression (ACE2 regulates blood pressure)
- As a result of reduced ACE2 expression, blood vessels in the lungs become damaged and lungs become flooded with blood (causing infection)

- treatment of mice using ACE2 has proven successful for acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), and use of ACE2 is promising in

the future for use in lung injuries caused by viruses and other factors (including potential avian flu pandemic)

- SARS identified ACE2 as a critical lung gene, and as a result of its discovery treatments for other lung diseases are on the horizon

g. ***Cognitive Therapy as an alternative to ADHD Drugs***

- ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) is a disorder of childhood and adolescence characterized by lack of impulse control, inability to concentrate and hyperactivity

- most children put on Ritalin when diagnosed with ADHD, since it has a calming effect

- ADHD is the #1 childhood diagnosed disorder, with Ritalin being the #1 regular prescription

- Ritalin does not show any improvement in a child's grades, peer relationships, or defiant behaviour in the long term

- increasing medical evidence shows that ADHD may be caused by cognitive defects, specifically in working memory

- cognitive therapy now being researched as a treatment for ADHD, as an alternative or in lieu of taking Ritalin (or other ADHD drugs)

- teaching methods are being tested that train working memory

- Cogmed, a biotech company, has developed a software program to train working memory

- 60% of 20 unmedicated ADHD children no longer met the clinical criteria for ADHD after five weeks cognitive training

- over-prescription of Ritalin comes into question

- cognitive therapy route may prove to be the answer in many ADHD cases as an alternative to medication, and serves to improve other cases where Prescription drugs are necessary

h. In recent times there have many studies indicating the harmful effects of the increased use of cell phones on human health. This issue has been raised as it is unclear whether or not the electromagnetic radiation emitted from cell phone handsets is harmful to humans. There have been claims indicating that cell phones affect the human DNA (in the lab), key brain cells, and trigger the early onset of Alzheimer's disease. However, a Danish study this year in April has suggested that cell phones do not increase the risk of developing a brain tumor and are completely safe for brains. But the authors say long-term data is still needed because the technology has not been around long enough to know for sure if they cause any ill health. In addition, the UK government commissioned an independent group to look into the safety of cell phones in the late 1990s. The latest review published by the group also indicates cell phones do not harm health.

8. EDUCATION

a. Category: Education

My Example: "No Child Left Behind" act

Time: 2005

- Under the act's accountability provisions, states must describe how they will close the achievement gap and make sure all students, including those who are disadvantaged, achieve academic proficiency.
- They must produce annual state and school district report cards that inform parents and communities about state and school progress. Schools that do not make progress must provide supplemental services, such as free tutoring or after-school assistance; take corrective actions; and, if still not making adequate yearly progress after five years, make dramatic changes to the way the school is run.
- If schools abide by the rules of this act, they get 50% of the government funds they receive to allocate towards Improving Teacher Quality State Grants, Educational Technology, Innovative Programs, and Safe and Drug-Free Schools programs, WITHOUT SEPARATE APPROVAL
- gives states and districts more control in planning programs to benefit all ESL students
- uses educational programs (teaching methods, reading programs, etc) proven to be effective through scientific research
- **CONTROVERSY:** teachers complain that the conductance of the government's standardized testing is not fair to ESL and mentally disabled students who "drag down" the school's score, and threatens their ability to meet their criteria

b.

Category: Education

Example 1: French Immersion - 30 Years Later

Time: 2004

- French immersion programs were introduced into Canadian schools in the 1970s to encourage bilingualism across the country. Today, immersion programs provide an alternative education stream for many students.
- Research shows that students in French immersion programs show more academic success than those in other programs, especially in literacy (reading and writing) assesment.
- Many factors are considered in explaining possible reasons for this difference in success in school of immersion versus non-immersion students. Immersion students come from families of a higher socio-economic background, and more girls enroll in the program. And girls generally outperform boys in reading. Additionally, french immersion programs are offered in urban localities, where the literacy rate is higher.
- ~Examples shows Canadian government's attempt to incorporate and encourage the French culture in the rest of Canada.
- ~Factors that affect the level of academic success of a student.
- ~How this affects the families that choose the non-immersion program.

c. Ontario's Double Cohort

Time: 2003

- In 1997, Ontario's Conservative government announced its plans for secondary school reform. These plans included the replacement of Ontario's five-year high school program with a four-year program, a new curriculum designed to cover the same amount of content as the five-year program in one year less, and more rigorous assessment and [testing.](#) In 2003, students from the old 5-year and the new 4-year program graduated together for the first time. This double cohort sought placement in Ontario's colleges and universities, creating a dramatic increase in applications and undue pressure on students, parents and postsecondary institutions alike.
- Further issues: teaching new curriculum without textbooks, implementing new assessment and evaluation policies without adequate support, and counseling students that are frustrated or anxious.
- ~Most of the new policies made in response to the cohort issues, address only students planning to continue with post secondary studies. For instance, an increase in the number of admission offers made by universities for Fall 2003. This leads to generally ignoring the concerns of work-bound youth.
- ~Together with health care, education is leaning towards a two-tier system, with private universities, higher cost professional schools/increase in tuition fees/increase in student debt.
- ~Effect on behaviour of students.. increase in completion for academic success (marks) means some students have had to abandon extra circular activities etc.

d.

1) Jim Keegstra, a high school teacher in Eckville

High in Calgary taughts his class that Jews were

involved in a worldwide conspiracy and made "revisionists" account of the Holocaust.

He was charged under s. 281.2 of the criminal code for the willful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group (and not abuse of professional position as it touched the welfare of minors).

Interestingly enough, he was convicted because he did not even use facts to support his arguments. Supposedly, the freedom of speech clause, in the Canadian charter, could have been invoked if his claims were for the sake of discussion that would lead to the public's benefit.

e. Category: Education

My example: Native students lacking resources

Time: 2005

- good education needed to improve living conditions in Canadian native reserves
- in an fly-in reserve in the isolated town, Weagamow, Ontario, 8 out of 10 children are at least two grades behind the standard and 3/4 of the students need special care (ie. social workers, literacy experts, speech pathologists, etc.)
- very difficult to keep teachers in the reserve because of the lack of funds
- aboriginal educators need more money to keep good teachers, training for local teachers, more special education help, smaller classes, no split grades, etc.

f. -McGuinty government confirms new direction for EQAO testing.

-Education Minister Gerard Kennedy announced on May 10, 2005 that the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) will be reshaped to follow recommendations of a two-year intensive review with Charles Pascal, the newly appointed chair of the EQAO overseeing this work.

-The government's goal is that 75 per cent of 12-year olds reach the provincial standard on provincewide testing by 2008. Currently, less than 60 per cent are reaching the provincial standards.

G.

-Ontario teachers' right to strike was legalized by Bill 100 in 1975. In 1996, the Education Relations

Commission reported that the first 20 years of this legislation had worked well, with little time lost to work stoppages compared with other public sectors.

-In late 1997, the imposition of major changes in governance and working conditions because of Bill 160 provoked the largest ever work stoppage in Ontario. But the government held its ground and the teachers went back to work after two weeks, after the bill was passed.

-Bill 160 included reform to areas such as class size, less preparation time and increased teaching time for teachers, control of education tax rates and replacing some teachers with non-certified professionals.

h. Education

Subject: Tuition costs are overestimated

Time: 2005

-A recent study indicates that Canadians and Americans overestimate the cost of higher education. Lower income families were inclined to overestimate the cost of tuition more so than other families.

-University graduate salaries were also underestimated by people believe that they were only slightly higher than high school graduate salaries.

-There is still an argument of the fact that tuition is rising and that it is still unaffordable.

-Status is one of the main reasons people still choose to invest in higher education even with the common misconceptions.

The article can be found here:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20050707/UNIVERSITY07/TPNational/?query=education>

i. Category" EDUCATION, article 1

Time: 2005

Ex: Mark Barlow's new approach to teaching

- Mark Barlow from Greene County, Indiana uses a hands on approach to learning, His goal is to have his students talking in the hallways about what happened in class, but his main goal is to have his students know that he cares about them. He says "if I cant let them know i care then why will they care about science class?"

-Admits teachers in Indiana are underpaid, but he is teaching because he cares about the students and about them learning

- Likes the hands-on approach because students dont realize they're learning and become more enthusiastic about increasing their awareness of science inside and outside the classroom

j. Category: EDUCATION, article 2

Time: 2005

- Ghana District assemblies have been urged to use part of their common fund to promote technical and vocational education so as to help turn out more skilled middle level manpower for the accelerated development of the country.

- general society needs skilled personnel in the areas such as plumbing, building and construction, electrical installation, computing and these are trained by those institutions.

-The president regretted that in spite of the huge contributions made by technical and vocational institutions, society still looked down upon them as institutions meant for less academically endowed youth.

- He stressed, "In this fast changing world of ours, the youth must be assisted to develop an insatiable appetite for knowledge and self-improvement."

9. MEDIA/ADVERTISING

a.

Category: Media/Advertising

Topic: Consumer Drug Advertising

Time: June 2005

In June 2005, the American Medical Association agreed to study whether consumer drug advertising leads to unnecessary prescriptions, which may harm patients and increase health costs. In the past, the widespread use of cox-2 painkillers (Vioxx), which is linked to serious cardiovascular problems, has been attributed to drug advertising. Vioxx was taken off the market in September because of the health problems it caused.

One proposed idea at the AMA meeting was to ban advertisement of new drugs for at least a few months after they go on sale. This would allow doctors to evaluate the medications and possibly detect drugs that cause serious side effects before patients ask for them.

Pharmaceutical manufacturers and the advertising industry argue that the marketing of drugs helps alert consumers to treatments. They suggest that many people see their doctor about health problems only after seeing a prescription drug ad. However, physicians feel that advertising can lead patients to thinking that medications can work better than they actually do. Many drug advertisements can be misleading. Guidelines are being drafted and are expected to be released in July.

Note: This can also tie into the “Business” section. Do companies have responsibility to the public when they advertise their products? Should guidelines similar to those being set-up by the AMA be established for advertisements of other categories of products as well (ie. toys, food, diet ads, etc.)?

Go here for article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/22/business/media/22adco.html>

b. How Objectivity of the media is influenced by the state:

Possible Prompt: “State sponsorship of a network such as Al-Jazeera clearly impacts the objectivity of its coverage of political developments within the Emirate, though not as much as one might expect.”

Some general analyses: I think it is interesting to note that public radio and television stations are often times more critical of the state than are privately owned media. The BBC, for example, is more critical of the British government than CNN is of the US government. The reason for this is due to the reliance of private media upon funding from audiences.

Interestingly, there have been efforts to make CBC dependent upon private funds in hopes of silencing it. Privately owned media are concerned with their advertising incomes. As money is necessary to sustain their existence, the privately owned radio and television stations tend to be more conservative. Advertising provides funds and profits that enable privately owned media to continue providing news. Indeed, it is much more desirable to keep the media and state separated. With a clear division between the state and media, the objectivity of coverage is less likely to be

questioned.

Aljazeera – An example: As television production is very expensive to maintain, stations are reliant upon either audiences or the state for funding. Al-Jazeera is independently-run but receives funding from the Emir. As such, the station is careful to avoid direct criticism of the Emir's domestic policies as well as the Emir's closest ally, Saudi Arabia. Although the Authoritarian theory for mass media says that the purpose of media is to act as an instrument effecting government policy, Al Jazeera does not really contribute to the Qatari government's relations with other nations. Indeed, as the content of Al Jazeera's coverage and the people they chose to interview are not influenced by Qatar's foreign policy objectives. Thus although state sponsorship would lead many to expect that Al Jazeera's objectivity would be biased, it does not operate to serve the Qatari government.

The liberal theory of the media maintains that in Western democracies the media is free of state control. Due to privately ownership the media is expected to present the values of the people and state. Newspapers in Western democracies can be launched by those who have the money to do so. Freedom of the press is not universal; it is only for the bourgeoisie (wealthy class) to exercise. The freedom of press belongs to those who have power, so the monopoly of knowledge belongs to those with wealth. The difference between media in the West and in the Middle East, for example, can be described in the liberal framework. There is a common view that the Saudi Arabian government enforces lots of censorship and disseminates a plenitude of propaganda. However, the critical media theory rejects this notion; the BBC is also propagandist. The New York Times distributes just as much propaganda as any media in the world. The only difference is that in the Middle East you need government consent to launch a newspaper. Further, instead of going to court for libel you could face much harsher consequences in the Middle East.

Concluding Statement: The media in almost all instances can never be fully objective. It is inevitable to be biased and the state is one of the factors that influence it. State sponsorship may impact the objectivity of a television station, but it can by no means restrict the station's ability to report.

c. Category: Media

My Example: Fewer Canadians attending movie theatres

Time: 2005

- Statistics Canada reported that movie attendance at both theatres and drive-ins is declining
 - The lack of movie-goers is hurting theatre company revenues and profits according to the motion picture theatres survey
 - The decline from 2002-2003 went along with a small increase in the average admission price, which rose to \$7.45.
 - movie critics are blaming the lack of creativity in Hollywood movies that fails to attract a large number of audience.
- Rather than taking a chance on original screenplays, the film industry attempts to play it safe financially by working with proven material--sequels, remakes (i.e the remake of the movie "Bewitched"), and re-releases.

10. TECH/COMPUTERS

- a. - in regards to video game ratings, Take Two Software Company is under review for video game content
- they are the makers of the Grand Theft Auto Franchise and the people who rate video games (Entertainment Software Rating Board or ESRB) are considering changing the rating of Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas from Mature to Adults Only
- the change is due only to hidden features in the game which allow the characters to engage in sexually explicit acts
- this is questionable as the change would not be due to the explicit nature of the game, although many people believe it should have been rated Adults only, but only due to features that must be unlocked
- Grand Theft Auto was the number one game of 2004 and this rating change could not only significantly change the game's sales, but also the company and it might see the end hidden features (that allow indecent acts), which are very common in today's video games

b. Category: Technology

Time: 2005

Topic: Cellphones and children

- Children at using cell phones at a much younger age. A conference is being held (by WHO) in Ottawa with this topic (although not a priority) but in mind along with other concerns. The potential long term concerns of cell phone use are being discussed.
- Although there are no apparent concerns at the moment, prohibiting the use of them will reduce the \$10-billion economy.
- According to WHO, the potential risks are too large to ignore.

c. Topic: Technology

Example: Spyware

Time: 2005

- Spyware is the name given to programs that surreptitiously make their way on to Windows PCs and then subject users to pop-up adverts, hijack their start page, install bookmarks or gather information about browsing habits. The most malicious spyware programs lurk unseen on PCs and steal confidential information such as passwords or login details.
- Spyware was highlighted recently after the criminals who tried to steal money from Sumitomo Mitsui bank used keylogging software to gather confidential data from the financial institution.

- The House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly for two bills which clamp down on spyware programs.
 - oThe I-SPY Prevention Act of 2005 and the SPY Act introduce multi-million dollar fines and prison sentences. The I-SPY Prevention Act of 2005 makes it an offence to access a computer without permission via spyware programs and introduces sentences of up to five years in prison for criminal activity.
 - oThe SPY Act, means firms need a user's permission before installing programs onto their computers.
 - oThe bills would also mean harsher penalties for those behind phishing scams.
- Phishing scams are where cyber criminals direct people to spoof websites which look like official bank or e-commerce sites, hence fooling them into giving away confidential information.

-The two bills now go to the Senate for further consideration.

-The problem for many countries, however, is tracking down the purveyors of spyware. Only two have been sued so far in the US.

-Although the moves are encouraging, there are still obstacles to preventing criminal use of spyware, such as lack of global enforcement policies, as well as the intricacies involved in distinguishing different types of spyware.

d. Technology

Technological devices can allow easier remote access for the detonation of bombs.

In the Madrid bombings in March 2004, where 191 people were killed, bombs were detonated by cell phones.

However, when police found a gym bag with an unexploded bomb and a cell phone, they tracked the phone's earlier activity and this helped lead to arrests.

e. Category: Technology

Example: Printing Press

Time: 1450

-inventor: Johann Gutenberg, of Germany

-the printing press was distinguished as one of 100 greatest inventions by LIFE magazine

-before the invention of the printing press, books were hand-copied by monks

-it was first used to print bibles

-led to literacy for the masses, increased distribution of information

e. Topic: Technology/Computer

Source: Time (May 23,2005)

- Release of Xbox 360

-Timeline of games from Pong to life-like games (the Sims, Final Fantasy)

- Capability of a game console: it dominates teenagers' lives with games that they dreamed of living in - violence, war, perfection of playing sports etc. are possible when you play games

f. Napster Trial:

- Shawn Fanning, the developer of the music swapping service Napster (January 1999)

- Napster faced legal controversy due to copyright violations brought to the courts attention by The Recording Industry Association of America

- February 12, 2001, deferral appeals court affirmed a lower-court ruling that Napster promotes and assists the wholesale infringement of copyrights. As a result, the court prohibited Napster from continuing to exchange any copyrighted works on the web.

- This case has revolutionary implications in which the need for Property Laws on the Internet has been made apparent

- In addition, Napster exposes one of the great downfalls of the Internet as a whole: lack of regulation and the government's constant strive for control

11. **HISTORY**

a. Category: genocide, government misconduct

Time: 1932-1933

The artificial famine

-A Man-Made Famine raged through Ukraine, the ethnic-Ukrainian region of northern Caucasus, and the lower Volga River region in 1932-33.

-This resulted in the death of between 7 to 10 million people, mainly Ukrainians.

-This was instigated by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and his henchman Lazar Kaganovich.

-The main goal of this artificial famine was to break the spirit of the Ukrainian farmer/peasant and to force them into collectivization. The famine was also used as an effective tool to break the renaissance of Ukrainian culture that was occurring under approval of the communist government in Ukraine. Moscow perceived this as a threat to a Russo-Centric Soviet rule and therefore acted to crush this cultural renaissance in a most brutal manner.

-In 1932, the Soviets increased the grain procurement quota for Ukraine by 44%. They were aware that this extraordinarily high quota would result in a grain shortage, therefore resulting in the inability of the Ukrainian peasant to feed themselves. Soviet law was quite clear in that no grain could be given to feed the peasants until the quota was met.

-Communist party officials with the aid of military troops and NKVD secret police units were used to move against peasants who may be hiding grain from the Soviet government. Even worse, an internal passport system was implemented to restrict movements of Ukrainian peasants so that they could not travel in search of food. Ukrainian grain was collected and stored in grain elevators that were guarded by military units & NKVD secret police units while Ukrainians were starving in the immediate area. The actions of this Moscow instigated action was a deliberate act of genocide against the Ukrainian peasant.

-Taken from <http://www.infoukes.com/history/famine/>

c. Category: History

My Example: Battle of Agincourt

Time: October 25, 1415

The battle of Agincourt was fought between the French army and the British Army in Northern France. The British Army belonged to Henry V of England and the French army to Charles VI of France. France lost a comparatively large number of men in the battle and this was thought to be a huge victory for England because it's been thought that the French army outnumbered the British by nearly 4 to 1, and England still won. But a new book called "Agincourt, A New History" by Anne Curry (to be released on July 30), proposes how the scale of the English triumph at Agincourt was overstated for almost six centuries for patriotic reasons.

According to her research, the French still outnumbered the English, but only by a factor of three to two. And according to Curry, the Battle of Agincourt was a "myth constructed around Henry to build up his reputation as a king".

d. Category: History

Example: Apartheid in South Africa

Time: 1948-1990

- background: Dutch settlers in 17th century, English in the 19th century, 75% African population
- Nationalist party came into power in 1948 and declared the policy of apartheid: segregation of whites from non-whites
- Nelson Mandela, a South African statesman, opposed the segregation and was jailed from 1964-1990. After his release, he became the first black South African president in 1994.
- the policy was revoked in 1990 by newly elected president F. W. de Klerk
- example of racial segregation, discrimination, and political violence in the 20th century

e.

FRENCH LANGUAGE AND THE STATUS OF QUEBEC

History

- In the late second half of the 20th century, many Quebecers sought greater sovereignty for Quebec, which has a French-speaking majority. - This movement led the federal parliament on July 7, 1969, to make the French language equal to the English throughout the Canadian federal government.
- This started a process that led to Canada redefining itself as a bilingual and multicultural nation. - In 1977, Quebec adopted the Charter of the French Language, which recognized French as the only official language. - Two referendums were held on independence for Quebec, in 1980 (led by René Lévesque of the Parti Québécois) and 1995 (led by former Progressive Conservative federal cabinet minister, Lucien Bouchard, of the Bloc Québécois).
- In both cases the referendums were defeated, with first 60 % (1980) then 50.6 % (1995) of the vote opposed to independence.
- The Quebec sovereignty movement is a political movement for the attainment of sovereignty for Quebec. - With a sovereign state, Quebec sovereigntists believe that the people of Quebec will be better equipped to foster their own economic, social, and cultural development.
- The idea of sovereignty for Quebec is based on historical and sociological evidence that Quebecers are their own people and political nation, and that they should have democratic control over a state of their own. - Within Canada, the national policies of Quebec clash with the national policies of the federal government. - Various attempts at reforming the federal system of Canada have thus failed due to the conflicting interests between the majority of Quebecers and the majority of other Canadians - Although it is primarily a political question, cultural concerns are also at the root of the desire for independence.

f. Category: History

My Example: King Cyrus

Time: 500 BCE

- Cyrus (580-529 BC) was the first Achaemenid Emperor. He founded Persia by uniting the two original Iranian Tribes- the Medes and the Persians. Is best remembered for his religious tolerance and treatment towards those he defeated. His code is said to be the first Charter of Human rights
- After his easy victory (in which it is recorded that no struggle took place) over Babylonia in October 539 BCE, an example diplomatic propaganda mixed with deep political wisdom, Cyrus presented himself not as a conqueror, but a liberator, a restorer of the right religion and the legitimate successor to the crown.

-He took the title of "King of Babylon and King of the Lands". Cyrus had no thought of forcing conquered people into a single mould, and had the sense not to change the institutions of each kingdom, but rather attached them to the Persian crown.

-In 537 BC he allowed more than 40,000 Jews to leave Babylon and return to Palestine.

- He also declared the first Charter of Human Rights known to mankind, which is written on the clay cylinder now at the British Museum. In this document, freedom of religion and social association was guaranteed to all those who would subject themselves to his rule. Cyrus therein represents one of the first governing body to exchange his subjects' political freedom for their social and religious freedom.

- His reign saw no revolts nor want for independence.

- He was given the title "Great": Cyrus the Great

g. History:

Treaty of Versailles:

- peace treaty created in 1919, which put an official end to WWI between the Allies (Russia, France, Britain, Italy, US) and Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary)
- The treaty required that Germany claim full responsibility for causing the war, and pay large amounts of compensation (war reparations) to the allies. Germany also lost territory to many surrounding countries, had its military forces severely limited and was stripped of its overseas and African colonies.
- Representatives of the new German government (Weimar Republic) were forced by the victors to sign the treaty, otherwise fighting was threatened to begin anew.
- The treaty was ratified by the League of Nations (whose creation arose from the treaty) on January 10, 1920.
- In Germany the treaty caused a shock; Germany's economy was crippled in the early 20s & was left vulnerable to the equally devastating Great Depression
- All this eventually contributed to the collapse of the Weimar Republic in 1933, and thus Adolf Hitler's rise to power.

12. RIGHT TO PRIVACY/INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

a. Category: Right to Individual Rights

My example: Honor Killings

Time: Current Issue

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 3

Women in Pakistan live in fear. They face death by shooting, burning or killing with axes if they are deemed to have brought shame on the family. They are killed for supposed 'illicit' relationships, for marrying men of their choice, for divorcing abusive husbands. They are even murdered by their natal kin if they are raped as they are deemed to have brought shame on their family. The truth of the suspicion does not matter -- merely the allegation is enough to bring dishonor to the family and therefore justifies the slaying.

Every year hundreds of women are known to die as a result of "honor killings". The isolation and fear of women living under such threats are compounded by state indifference to and complicity in women's oppression. Police almost invariably take the man's side in honor killings or domestic murders, and rarely prosecute the killers. Even when the men are convicted, the judiciary ensures that they usually receive a light sentence, reinforcing the view that men can kill their female relatives with virtual impunity. Honor killing is a crime under the country's criminal laws. However, the Government of Pakistan has taken no measures to end them and to hold perpetrators to account.

An example is that of a woman named Ghazala who was set on fire by her brother in a small rural village in Pakistan, in 1999. According to reports, she was murdered because her family suspected she was having an 'illicit' relationship with a neighbor. Her burned and naked body reportedly lay unattended on the street for two hours as nobody wanted to have anything to do with it.

Ghazala was burned to death in the name of honor. Hundreds of other women and girls suffer a similar fate every year amid general public support and little or no action by the authorities. In fact, recent data indicates that the number of honor killings is on the rise as the perception of what constitutes honor -- and what damages it -- widens. As a result, more murders take on the guise of honor killings on the correct assumption that they are rarely punished.

b. Category: Right to Individual Rights

Example: Same-Sex Marriage Legalized in Canada: Comuzzi leaves cabinet to vote against liberals

Time: 2005

- Canada is the third country to legalize same sex-marriages after Belgium and the Netherlands
- Joe Comuzzi was obliged to leave the cabinet in order to vote against this bill C-38
- This demonstrates the split in the liberal government of those who support equality with those whose priorities lie in religious beliefs.
- Prime Minister regretted Comuzzi's actions as he said that the "vote is about the Charter of Rights"... "We're a nation of minorities and in a nation of minorities you don't cherry-pick rights" (CBC News)
- Stephen Harper (conservative leader) claims that if he is elected in the future this bill will be reexamined

c. *Implementation of Kendra's Law in New York State*

-Kendra's Law: implemented November 1999, in New York State
- passed after Kendra Webdale was killed by being pushed in front of a moving subway car by Andrew Goldstein, and untreated person with Schizophrenia

- Kendra's Law states that mentally ill individuals who are a threat to themselves and others can be court-ordered to take medication to treat their illness, or will otherwise be institutionalized or jailed

- violates the rights and freedoms of mentally ill individuals, since it does not give them a choice in their treatment and they haven't broken the law in any way

- however, improvement in quality of life has been seen in an overwhelming number of cases

- mandatory medication, in a majority of cases, allows mentally ill individuals to function in a normal community environment, and reduces the threats of mental illness taking control of their lives

- although rights and freedoms are violated, untreated mentally ill persons threaten their own safety and the safety of others, therefore this supercedes their "freedom" since the law ends up benefiting both parties in the long run

d. Right to Privacy

My Example: Consent when using patient health information

Time: 2004

The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, (PIPEDA), was implemented by the Canadian federal government in order to protect the privacy of patients health information. Under this act, research groups must obtain consent in order to use this information

Research groups find the issue of consent to be extremely problematic.

Asking each patient for consent takes too much time. In addition, patients who refuse to give consent will not be included in the study. If these patients are associated with a particular factor related to the primary outcome, the data may become seriously skewed and may not accurately represent the intended population.

Although a patient's health information should be private, the use of this information for research purposes may have beneficial outcomes for health care. The researchers have a valid argument, especially if personal identification was removed making these patients anonymous.

e. ABORTION

Right to Individual Rights

Pro-Choice: Describes the people who believe that the government should NOT outlaw abortion. The choice to terminate a pregnancy should be the pregnant woman's choice.

- Major argument to defend Pro-Choice is the legal idea of Reproductive Rights = which include issues related to the rights to reproduce (ex. forced sterilization) as well as rights not to reproduce, (ex. abortion and birth control).
- NARAL Pro-Choice America is the leading pro-choice advocacy and lobbying group in the United States, though many major feminist organizations are involved in the issue on the pro-choice side as well.

Pro-Life: Describes the people who believe that the government should outlaw abortion. The choice to terminate a pregnancy should NOT be the pregnant woman's choice.

- this movement is generally defined by the belief that the unborn should be considered human, and therefore have the same rights to life and legal protection from harm that is given to all "born" humans.
- there are varying ideas in this movement: ranging from all abortions should be illegal to ones that pertain to the health of the mother or that abortions should be legal if the child was conceived through a rape, but illegal in every other case
- supported by many varying religions.

Summary: an unborn child's right to life vs. a woman's right to control her body.

Significant Events dealing with Abortion in Canada:

- Canada is one of only a few countries in the world with no laws limiting abortion. While some non-legal obstacles exist, abortion access in Canada is among the freest in the world.
- The Canadian courts have determined that a fetus has no inherent right to life in Canadian law, and no legal protection as a person until born alive. Additionally, the woman and her fetus are considered one and the same under the law.
- The case of Chantale Daigle is one of the most widely publicized cases concerning abortion in Canada. It went before the Supreme Court of Canada in 1989. Daigle's ex-boyfriend obtained a restraining order against her having an abortion. While the restraining order was issued in Quebec, it was legally restricting Canada-wide. The case came before the Supreme Court of Canada, which ruled that only the women could make the choice; the father had no legal say in a woman's choice to terminate a pregnancy or carry it to completion.

Dr. Henry Morgentaler

- Canadian Medical Doctor and long time abortion activist from Montreal.
- Morgentaler is a Holocaust survivor.
- Went to medical school in Germany
- General practitioner for nearly twenty years before his convictions about abortion caused serious conflict.
- In 1969 he gave up his family practice and began openly performing illegal abortions.
- In 1983 he was charged in Ontario for performing illegal abortions.
- He was acquitted by a jury, but the verdict was reversed by the Ontario Court of Appeal. - The case was then sent to the Supreme Court of Canada. He was acquitted once again, and the Canadian Supreme Court declared the law he was convicted under to be unconstitutional in the case of Morgentaler et al. v. Her Majesty The Queen 1988
- This ruling essentially ended all statutory restrictions on abortion in Canada.
- In 1992, his Harbord Street clinic in Toronto was bombed, although Dr. Morgentaler was not physically harmed.
- On June 16, 2005 the University of Western Ontario conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree upon Dr. Henry Morgentaler; this is his first honorary degree. This decision by UWO's senate honorary degrees committee has generated controversy with Canadian pro-life organizations.

f. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS article 1

Example: Hair cutting in Korea

2005

- In Korea, 92.5 percent of middle schools and 91.1 percent of high schools have hair regulations, and just this year, 32 middle schools and 44 high schools have cut students' hair with scissors or electric shavers
- The National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRC) said on July 4, "Hair is the individual student's basic right, therefore school restrictions on hairstyles should be minimal and limited only to educational purposes."
- The NHRC recommended to the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Department and superintendents of cities and provinces, "If we find that there is an infringement of human rights in regulating and amending the hair laws, we will request further amendments. Especially, as the forced cutting of hair is clearly violating human rights, the ministry should provide measures to prevent such events from reoccurring."

G. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, article 2

Time: 2005

Ex: The Great Firewall of China

The National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China made a law of Internet censorship in mainland China. In accordance with this law, several regulations were made by the Chinese government, and a censorship system is implemented variously by provincial branches of state-owned ISPs, business companies, and organizations. This law is not applied to Special Administrative Regions, such as Hong Kong and Macau.

- chinese internet cafe's who allowed people to surf the net without blocking sites were forced to shut down

- this demonstrate's china's fear of free information
- controversy over whether companies should profit from censorship by providing the equipment to help dam the internet
- in accordance with Chinese laws, Microsoft began to censor the content of its blog service MSN space
- U.S.-based Cisco Systems and Canadian-based Nortel Networks are working closely with the People's Armed Police developing oppressive and intrusive computer systems to monitor, track and prosecute illegal Internet web browsers

Research into the Chinese Internet censorship has shown that blocked websites include:

- Websites with pornographic content
- News from many foreign sources, especially websites which include forums
- Information about Tibet independence
- Information about Falun Gong
- Some websites based in Taiwan
- Some websites based in Hong Kong, or with content about Hong Kong (e.g. <http://hk.yahoo.com> is blocked)
- Overseas Chinese websites such as <http://chinese-school.netfirms.com>

H. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS...A continuation of article 2 but a sort of a different story 2005

- Chinese information oppression often goes much farther than simply shutting down illegal Internet web browsing. In June 2000, Huang Qi, a computer engineer from Chengdu, was arrested for putting up an online missing persons search website.
- The red police confiscated Huang's computer equipment and shut down his web site. Communist authorities later charged that Huang was guilty of "organizing national separatism, destroying national unity" and "subverting the socialist system."

Huang was put in jail where he was abused by in-mates

In August 2001, Huang was tried in a closed court. No verdict or sentence has ever been announced. A government official told Huang's wife, "After your husband is sentenced, don't expect your son to go to school or to have any future."

MISCELLANEOUS:

Prompt:

Citizenship should be revoked from athletes who decide to cross the border to compete for other countries.

Issue at hand:

- transfer of allegiance and citizenship should be more closely regulated in sports
- athletes shouldn't be able to change flags as easily as track shoes

Current Guidelines:

For anyone contemplating playing in the Olympics for another country, the rule is that an athlete who has competed internationally for one country (even at the junior level) is supposed to wait three years before competing for another. However, if the athlete's former national Olympic committee and the relevant international sports federation grant permission, the International Olympic Committee can waive the three-year requirement and the delay then drops to one year. (Some sports, like soccer, do not permit players to change national teams.)

Examples:

South Africa's Zola Budd became a British citizen to escape from the shadows of a worldwide antiapartheid ban on her homeland. Her queue jumping (she was granted citizenship in 13days) was frowned upon by many British citizens and angered many opponents of apartheid because Zola refused to reject her homeland's racist policy.

For the 1992 Olympics, 47 athletes petitioned the IOC for permission to change national teams without waiting three years. For the 1996 Olympics, approximately 90 had done so.

Missy Martinez, who played shortstop for the University of South Florida, went on to play for the Puerto Rican national softball team. Even though Martinez did not speak any Spanish, she qualified because her father was born in Puerto Rico. An added bonus: the national team agreed to pay her tuition to medical school if she attended the University of Puerto Rico.

Prompt:

We too often equate justice with closure in criminal legal cases.

The issue at hand:

"closure" - a New Age buzz word drawn from the vocabulary of family therapy and meaning to bring redemption and peace; putting the whole matter behind us
- warmer/fuzzier outcome

Closure is a term from psychology, not law, closure refers to a general sense of emotional completion about a matter, not to the formal righting of a moral or ethical imbalance. It is more of an appeal to feelings, not principles.

Justice is often a term one associates more with the Old Testament. For certain tolerant religious types, justice is the Lord's, of course, not man's, and closure may be the best we can get on this earth.

Examples:

When a married couple in counseling finally splits, grievances aired, tears shed and hugs hugged, the closure reached, however final, does not guarantee an equitable divorce.

When Richard Nixon resigned over Watergate, that was closure too, it can be argued--but his pardon by Gerald Ford was viewed by many, even to this day, as an unsatisfactory moral ending.