

### ***Civic Minds***

**Date:** Friday, February 26, 2016

**E-Edition Date:** Thursday, February 18, 2016

**Article Title:** **Apple, FBI locked in duel over gunman's iPhone**

**Section:** Main, A1

### **Vocabulary:**

Look up the definition of **stark**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

"The facts are sympathetic to the government and present the **starkest** example of their need to gain access to encrypted data to protect the American public."

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. It was a compelling set of facts for the government: a terrorist attack in California that killed 14 people. What possibly held crucial evidence that could not be unlocked?
2. But the phone's contents are encrypted and Apple, according to the Justice Department, has refused to do what? What was the next step the government had to do?
3. Apple CEO Tim Cook accused the government of asking it to build a "backdoor" into an iPhone and to design software that amounts to what?
4. Apple argues that starting from the hours after the Dec. 2 attack up until days ago, it has worked with the FBI to give the agency what data it has: material backed up from the phone into iCloud, for instance. What did Apple not want to do?
5. In the escalating fight over \_\_\_\_\_, the U.S. government has moved to force a showdown that's been years in the making.
6. What is the phone at the center of the debate and who did it belong to?
7. What does the government want Apple to do?

### **Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:**

***By Wednesday morning, the Justice Department and the Silicon Valley giant had torqued up the encryption debate, raising the stakes for those who support widespread strong encryption to protect privacy and security, and those who believe that courts should be able to compel tech firms to accommodate law enforcement's need to thwart criminals and terrorist attacks.***

- What do you think about the encryption debate?

***Said Cook in his memo: "Make no mistake: Building a version of iOS that bypasses security in this way would undeniably create a back door." Though government officials say the software would be designed just for one phone, he said, "Once created, the technique could be used over and over again, on any number of devices."***

***He said it would set a dangerous precedent. "The implications of the government's demands are chilling."***

***If the government has its way, he said, it could “demand that Apple build surveillance software to intercept your messages, access your health records or financial data, track your location, or even access your phone’s microphone or camera without your knowledge.”***

- Is this setting a dangerous precedent? Why or why not?

### **Essay**

***“The government wants to lay down a marker here that companies do have to provide assistance when they can,” said Timothy Edgar, senior fellow at Brown University’s Watson Institute and a former privacy officer with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. “And Apple is saying, ‘We don’t want to have to hack our own customers.’ The outcome of the case is going to be hugely important for the balance between privacy and security.”***

***The request, the Justice Department said, does not require Apple to redesign its products, to disable the phone’s encryption or open its contents. The software, it said, would operate only on that one phone.***

***Technical experts said that all of that is possible. The question is, is it desirable?***

- Should it be used in court cases such as the one the debate is focused around?
- If someone kills another person or commits a crime, should these rules be challenged? Why or why not?
- Should the government be allowed to access data from the accused person’s phone, as evidence? Why or why not?

### **Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy**

***How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.***

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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