

## ***Civic Minds***

**Date:** Friday, September 16, 2016

**Print Replica Date:** Thursday, September 15, 2016

**Article Title:** Snowden thanks backers pushing for pardon over leak of secret documents

**Section:** Main, A2

### **Learning Objectives**

- ✓ Students will discuss government checks and balances in a democratic society
- ✓ Students will debate whether whistle-blowing is democracy's safeguard
- ✓ Students will talk about government accountability
- ✓ Students will discuss the ripple effect of a single event in history

### **CCSS Standards**

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.8**

Evaluate an author's premises, claims, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other information.

### **EALR 1 CIVICS**

- Evaluates how well court decisions and government policies have upheld key ideals and principles in the United States.
- Evaluates relationships between key ideals and historical and current realities.
- Understands and analyzes the structure and powers of government at the national level.

### **Vocabulary**

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

He said ***whistle-blowing*** "is democracy's safeguard of last resort, the one on which we rely when all other checks and balances have failed and the public has no idea what's going on behind closed doors."

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. National Security Agency (NSA) leaker Edward Snowden on Wednesday thanked supporters who launched a campaign for his pardon and said that for the sake of democracy, what needs to happen?
2. Where has Snowden been exiled since 2013?
3. Speaking by video link from Moscow, what did Snowden say regarding the Founding Fathers of our country and the system of checks and balances that are currently in place?
4. Snowden said whistle-blowing is democracy's safeguard? Why?
5. Snowden, 33, spoke to a New York City news conference where advocates from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International announced what?

6. The supporters called Snowden a hero. Why?
7. The Obama administration has urged Snowden to return to the U.S. Why?
8. Justice Department spokesman, Marc Raimondi, said on Wednesday: "It is important to remember, Mr. Snowden is not a whistleblower. What is Raimondi's perspective on the issue?"
9. Naureen Shah, Amnesty International's director of human rights for the U.S., held up a photo of Snowden and said what?
10. Who are the public figures supporting the request for a pardon?

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

- ***Have you heard the term whistle-blower before? In what situation?***
- ***Have you heard about Edward Snowden before?***

***He said whistle-blowing "is democracy's safeguard of last resort, the one on which we rely when all other checks and balances have failed and the public has no idea what's going on behind closed doors."***

- Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Why? Provide details to support your answer.

***The launch of the presidential-pardon campaign comes two days before Oliver Stone's movie "Snowden" opens in theaters. Asked whether the film might help the case for his pardon, Snowden said he hopes rather that the movie puts issues of government overreach before a new audience.***

- Do you think the movie and media coverage will help Snowden's cause? Why or why not?

### **Essay**

***"Cases like Edward Snowden's are precisely why the presidential-pardon power exists," ACLU Executive Director Anthony Romero said. "There is widespread consensus that Edward Snowden's actions catalyzed an unprecedented debate about the proper limits of government surveillance, and his actions resulted in widespread reforms both in law and in technology that protect Americans and individuals across the globe."***

- By leaking information about the improper use of government surveillance, did he bring to light new information that was important for the American public to know about?
- What if he would've kept this information a secret?
- Should citizens leak government documents, even when they know they're doing something wrong? Why or why not?
- Should he be punished or pardoned? 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?

**Civic Minds in The Seattle Times is posted to the Web on Friday. Please share the NIE program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition of the newspaper please call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.**

**Copyright © 2016 The Seattle Times Company**