**Does *Citizen United v. F.E.C.* Threaten Democracy?**

**Directions:**

In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens United v. F.E.C.* that political spending by corporations and labor unions is a form of protected speech under the first amendment. This decision has sparked great debate over the appropriate application of the First Amendment and the inherent fairness of unlimited money injected into political campaigns. This activity requires you to consider the pro’s and con’s of the *Citizen United* decision.

**Side A [Pro]: *Citizen United* protects our First Amendment right of free speech.**

**Versus**

**Side B [Con]: *Citizens United* threatens democracy.**

**Group Assessment (50 Formal Points) (shared with me via google docs) by 6:00 AM 3/28:**

* You willcreate a document that is two pages of **typed** notes (20 points)
  + citing at least **10 pieces of evidence** supporting side A
  + citing at least **10 pieces of evidence** supporting side B
  + at least **8 separate sources.** Included in these 5 sources must be the majority and minority opinions of the Supreme Court.
* You will create an Opening Statements (3-4 minutes) which must cite at least 5 pieces of SPECIFIC and cited information (10 pts)
* RebuttalYou must have at least 3 specific questions prepared for the other side. (5 points) (5 points)
* Closing statement (1-2 minutes) citing at least 3 specific facts (5 points)
* Participation ALL group members speak during the debate (10 points)

**Open Forum 3/28:**

Each student will be assigned to one side of the argument: in favor of *Citizen United* decision or against it. You personal feelings about this topic are irrelevant for the purpose of this

activity!!!!!

1. Preparation (30 min)
2. Opening Statements (3-4 minutes per team) – Each group presents its side and supporting arguments.
3. Rebuttal (open to the whole class) – The debate is then opened up to all participants with the following ground rules:
   1. No person may speak twice until everyone has spoken once.
   2. Sides will alternate comments (if pro person speaks a con person must go next).
   3. The speaker will choose the next person
4. Closing Statement (1-2 minutes per side)