## Name:

## The Candidate at the Post Office: A Case Study

In 2006, a Massachusetts man collected signatures and campaigned for political office on the sidewalk right outside the post office. The sidewalk was located on post office property. He was told that this activity was against Postal Service regulations, but he refused to stop and was arrested.



The man fought the charges, saying that the regulation limited his right to

free speech. The Post Office argued that the sidewalk was property of the Postal Service—not public property like other sidewalks. He had been asked to move to the public city sidewalk along the street, but had refused.



The case reached the First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. The court sided with the Post Office, saying that the regulation did not violate the First Amendment. The Post Office's sidewalk was unique from the city sidewalk, where the candidate could have gathered signatures without any problem. The court's decision was based on a number of earlier decisions about freedom of speech and also serves as a precedent for future cases.

A. Making Connections. Match the statement to the correct source of law.

- \_\_\_\_\_1. Gives Congress power to establish post offices
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Laws about the Postal Service made by Congress
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Laws created by the Postal Service so it can run smoothly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Decisions made by courts about any of the laws regarding the Postal Service
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Laws about what you can and cannot do on the city sidewalks

- A) precedent
- B) The U.S. Constitution
- C) ordinance
- D) regulations
- E) statutes

B. It Affects Me! Check the source of law	
you think most affects people in their	
everyday lives:	

- □ The U.S. Constitution
- Statutes passed by Congress
- □ Regulations passed by federal agencies
- Legal precedent
- Local ordinances

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