**The Sedition Act (1918)** (modified)

treason

vulgar; abusive

rude; insulting

Whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully utter, print, write, or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about the form of government of the United States, or the Constitution of the United States, or the military or naval forces of the United States, or the flag of the United States, or the uniform of the Army or Navy of the United States into contempt, scorn, contumely, or disrepute, or shall willfully utter, print, write, or publish any language intended to incite, provoke, or encourage resistance to the United States…shall be punished by a fine of not more than $10,000 or the imprisonment for not more than twenty years, or both....

-this is an excerpt from The Sedition Act  
 passed by Congress, May 16, 1918

1. Who is the intended audience for this document? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 Provide 3 words as evidence for your answer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. The word **willfully** is used on lines 3 and 8. It has different meanings.   
 What does the word mean in the context of this document?   
 A. voluntary B. unruly

C. having one’s own way D. deliberately

3. What freedoms are being taken away by the Sedition Act? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 Underline evidence in the text to support your answer.

4. The word **utter** is used on lines 3 and 8. What synonym could the word  
 be replaced with? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the punishment for breaking the law? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. The Constitution guarantees certain rights and freedoms. Which  
 Amendment did this law violate? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why did the Congress and President Wilson create and support this   
 law?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. Using your answer from question #7 and evidence from the text, write a  
 definition for the word **Sedition.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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