Name: _____ Period: _____ Points: _____/12

Note: you may want to look up for more information for the case study online.

The Cheerleader's Snapchat (Mahanoy v. B.L.)

In 2017, a Pennsylvania high school student named Brandi Levy posted a photo to Snapchat with a caption full of profanity, complaining about her school, cheerleading, and classmates. She made the post off-campus and outside school hours. Another student took a screenshot and shared it with the school.
The school suspended Brandi from the cheerleading team for a year. Brandi argued that her free speech rights were violated because she posted on her own time. The case went all the way to the **U.S. Supreme Court (2021)**.

Questions:

1. What did Brandi say and where did she post it?

2. Why did the school punish Brandi, and what was her defense?

3. What harm, if any, was caused by her post?

4. Should the Harm Principle protect Brandi's free expression? Why or why not?

5. Should schools have authority over students' social media use outside of school? Explain.

6. If you were a Supreme Court justice, how would you decide this case?

Name: _____ Period: _____ Points: _____/12

Note: you may want to look up for more information for the case study online.

Case Study 2: The Twitter Threat

In 2015, a University of Missouri student was arrested after posting threatening tweets about shooting people on campus. Even though no attack happened, the threats frightened students and faculty, and many stayed home out of fear.
The student claimed he was joking and never intended to hurt anyone, but he was still charged because of the panic caused.

Questions:

1. What did the student post, and how did people react?

2. Why did police and school officials treat the post as a serious threat?

3. What types of harm were caused even though no one was physically attacked?

4. Should the student's "intent to joke" matter in this case? Why or why not?

5. How does the Harm Principle apply to speech that creates fear?

6. If you were a judge, what punishment (if any) would you give, and why?

Name: _____ Period: _____ Points: _____/12

Note: you may want to look up for more information for the case study online.

Case Study 3: The YouTube Challenge (Tide Pods)

In 2018, a dangerous viral trend called the "Tide Pod Challenge" spread across YouTube and TikTok, where teens filmed themselves pretending to eat laundry detergent pods. Some teens actually swallowed them, leading to poisonings and hospital visits. YouTube eventually removed the videos for violating its community guidelines.

Questions:

1. What was the Tide Pod Challenge, and why did it become dangerous?

2. Who was harmed by this trend? Give at least two examples.

3. Who holds the most responsibility for the harm — the original posters, the platforms, or the participants? Explain your reasoning.

4. Should platforms remove harmful viral content? Or does that unfairly limit creative freedom?

5. How does the Harm Principle apply to viral challenges?

6. Imagine a new online challenge encourages risky stunts. What could schools, parents, and platforms do to prevent harm?