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Lesson 1 : Freedom of the press

Freedom of the press is the most important wheel of democracy. Without a free press, a democracy cannot exist. In fact, the press is a great medium that conveys the truth to people. However, it cannot function fully if the press is not free.

People must have heard the saying about the cost of freedom is eternal vigilance. Thus, it is the media's responsibility to remain vigil for people's safety. Moreover, the freedom of people is monitored by the media. The press watches those in power to ensure they do not misuse it. In order to do this, freedom of the press is required.

Importance of Freedom of the Press

The press has been given the responsibility of checking and balancing the administration and the government. Whenever there is a social evil lurking or corruption and oppression happens, the press is the first one to raise a voice.

Moreover, we trust the press to collect verify and disseminate the facts and figures which influence people's decisions. If the press won't have the liberty to do all this, the people will be in the dark.

Therefore, we see how if even any one of these liberties is take away from the press, the voiceless will lose their voice. Worse yet, if the press will be denied to do their job, the ones in power will run the country as per their will. This will result in uninformed citizens who will thus become powerless.

Moreover, we see how censorship of the press is nothing less than a dictatorship. When the government imposes censorship on the press, it obviously means they are trying to hide something. A person only hides lies and not the truth. Thus, this way the citizens will be manipulated into thinking there is nothing wrong with the government.

Subsequently, when there remains no agency to report the truth, the government will gain absolute power.

In short, freedom of the press is important for the smooth functioning of democracy. It is important for people to be socially aware of happenings in the world. One must have the power to criticize the government; it will keep the administration on their toes to do better for the country.

Responsibility a Free Press

As we can conclude from the earlier statements, the press has a huge responsibility on their shoulders. They need to be vigilant and honest. Media has a powerful role to play in any form of government, whether democratic or totalitarian. The information they distribute helps in shaping the views of the public.

When you have such a power to influence the views of a whole public, then you must be even more responsible. In fact, the media is sometimes more powerful than the government. They have people's trust and support. However, such a power given to any individual or agency is quite dangerous.

In other words, any media without restraints can be hazardous. As they have the power to showcase anything, they may report anything and twist the facts as per their agendas. They have the power to cause outrage amongst the people. A free press can easily manipulate the public's opinion. This is why we need responsible journalism to refrain the media from reporting false facts which may harm the harmony and peace of a country.

FAQs on Freedom of the Press

Q.1 Why is freedom of the press important?

Q.2 What is the responsibility of a free press?

Q.3 Translat this press article into arabic.

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Lesson 2 : The role of the government

Government agencies are organizations that have the responsibility of overseeing and administering defined functions of the government. Agencies are notably of various types and are either permanent or semi-permanent depending with the legislation or executive powers that created the agency.

Most of the agencies have an executive functions such as the advisory and monitoring activities. Agencies are normally autonomous, independent and accountable to its board of directors. Though agencies may be created by the executive powers and the president being the appointing authority, there is some degree of independence from the executive control.

Role of government agencies

Broadly defined government agencies are executive federal departments that are inclusive of the president's cabinet level departments as well as their sub units. Most of these agencies executive role is to implement and advise on policy issues in addition to delivering government services. Agencies also have administrative, commercial and regulatory functions.

These functions are carried out within the framework of the government or department within which the agency falls. The degree of the agency operational independence also varies with the ministerial department that oversees the agency.

Constitutional justification of the agencies

Agencies are created through statutes known as enabling acts. Enabling acts define the agency responsibility, scope and authority. Even though agencies are not expressly mentioned in the US constitution, most of the independent agencies created are technically under the executive arm of the government with the few spread in the legislature.

The administrative course of action which was ratified in 1946 instituted various means via which the state agency dealings could be supervised. The act created a

common administrative law and procedures that regulate the agency promulgation of rules as well as the agency adjudication of claims.

The act is applicable to both independent agencies and the federal executive department. According to the manual on the administrative procedure act 1947, the APA main purpose required agencies to inform the public of the organization, include the public in the rule making process, to establish a common standard for the agencies conduct of making rules as well as their adjudication. Also, identify the scope of the agency judicial review.