**Rights of the Individual Vs. Rights of the Society**

***One of the biggest challenges our country has always faced is keeping a balance between the need to protect the rights of the individual and the need to protect our society.***

1. What does this quote say about the meaning of rights? What do we mean by “individual rights”? Why do we mean when we say “societal rights”? Is there a difference? Explain in a few sentences below.
2. Look at the following questions and, with a partner, answer the questions to the best of your ability.
3. What do you think of when you hear the word “property”? Place any thing that may come to mind with respect to the word “property” in the space below.
4. Why do those “physical pieces of property” have value for you? Why are they important to you?
5. Do you have pieces of property that have value to you? What are they? What value do they have to you?
6. How would you feel if someone took that property from you? Explain in a few sentences?
7. What does your reaction/feeling say about the value of property?
8. What actions does society say are criminal against the owning of property? (example: stealing or vandalism) Why?
9. Are there any types of property that are owned by the society and not by the individual? Are there any things in society now that are owned by the individual but should be owned by the society or community as a whole? What could they be?
10. Read the following quotations from James Madison's essay on property from 1792**, highlight or mark text** in the quotation that helps you summarize the main idea, and then **write the main idea of each quote in your own words in the space below.**

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| **Quotation** | **Summary In Your Own Words** |
| "A man has a property in his opinions and the free communication of them." |  |
| "[Property] embraces everything to which a man may attach value and have a right, and which leaves to everyone else the like advantage." |  |
| "As a man is said to have a right to his property, he may equally be said to have a property in his rights." |  |
| "Where an excess of power prevails, property of no sort is duly respected. No man is safe in his opinions, his person, his faculties, or his possessions." |  |
| [From the Virginia Convention]: "The rights of persons, and the rights of property, are the objects, for the protection of which Government was instituted." |  |

1. If former US President James Madison were asked the same question you were asked at the beginning of this lesson—"What is property?"—what do you imagine he would say?
2. Do you agree with Madison that a man has "a property in his rights"? What do you think he means?
3. What do you think that Madison wanted the government to protect—rights or physical property or both?
4. Why would Madison say a guaranteed right to private property is a protection against tyranny or government oppression?
5. What kinds of property rights are enumerated and protected in the Bill of Rights?