

Directions: Read the following information and use it with your knowledge of social studies to answer Numbers 1 through 5.

Bans on CDs

A growing number of people are trying to persuade congress to pass legislation banning the sale to minors of CDs that contain violent or sexually explicit language. This issue involves the First Amendment right of speech and the extent to which the government should be allowed to place limits on the right. While many people believe that free speech should not have any restrictions, others feel that certain kinds of speech, such as hate speech and obscenities, should be restricted under the law.

The following passages present conflicting views on the subject.

1. Since there are already Parental Advisory stickers on CDs with objectionable lyrics, there is no reason to ban the sale of these CDs to minors. These stickers are 100 percent effective in preventing young teens from buying the labeled CDs.
2. Although I don't believe in censorship, I do think that something has to be done about the vulgar and disgusting lyrics being spewed out by rappers and the like. Since most rappers have violent criminal backgrounds, our children's admiration of them should frighten all of us. A ban on the sale of CDs to minors is a first positive step to "just saying 'no'" to music that is a threat to our nation's well-being.
3. We hear all this talk about having the government restrict the sale of certain CDs, but what about parental responsibility? Shouldn't it be parents who control what their children listen to, and not the government? Once we begin, as a nation, to allow the government to dictate what we may and may not listen to, we're on the way to giving up our civil liberties. I bet if Thomas Jefferson were alive today, he would loathe the idea of restrictions on the sale of CDs, no matter how revolting he might find some of the lyrics. The bottom line is, all artistic expression is constitutionally protected speech.
4. Although, so far, no studies have made a link between violent and sexually explicit lyrics and bad behavior, a 1990 Carnegie Foundation study revealed that teens are spending less time with their parents and more time listening to music. Does prolonged exposure to music that disturbs the excites pose a danger for today's youth? Is violent music drawingt them further away from their parents and families and pulling them into a world they can't handle? These questions need to be answered with scientific studies to determine how certain kinds of music affect young people.

1. Which of the following statements from the passages expresses a stereotype?
 - A. These stickers are 100 percent effective...
 - B. Since most rappers have violent criminal backgrounds...
 - C. ... but what about parental responsibility?
 - D. ... all artistic expression is constitutionally protected speech

2. Which passage contains the most obvious inconsistency?
 - A. 2
 - B. 3
 - C. 4

3. Give evidence for your answer to Number 2.

4. Which passage has the most credibility? Why?

5. Do you think the sale to minors of CDs with explicit or violent language should be banned? Use information to write a persuasive essay defending your position.