Thinking About Authority

Name: _____

An **authority** is a person who has the right to tell someone else what to do. But an authority cannot tell someone to do everything the authority wants. An authority only has certain **powers**.

Think about some **authorities** in your life. Your teacher, for example, is an authority. What **can** a teacher tell you to do? What kinds of requests are outside a teacher's **power of authority**? Fill in the chart below.

Authority	Can tell people to:	Can't tell people to:
_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Think about the government. The government has certain **powers of authority**, but they are limited by our **Constitution**. Put a check in front of the things you think the government can tell people to do.

_____ pay taxes   _____ move to Alaska   _____ obey the speed limit

_____ wear red shirts   _____ take a driver's test   _____ be 18 to vote

_____ read only certain books   _____ serve in the Armed Forces during a war

_____ take a hunter safety class   _____ go to a specific church

Directions: In the chart below, limits of government power are listed in the left-hand column; protected freedoms are listed in the right-hand column. Match the limit of government power in the left-hand column to the freedom it protects in the right-hand column.

Limits of Government Power

Why?

_____ 1. Our government cannot tell newspapers what to publish.

A. Freedom of Religion

_____ 2. Our government cannot put you in jail for 10 years without a trial.

B. Right to a fair trial

_____ 3. Our government cannot take away guns that you legally own.

C. Freedom of Assembly

_____ 4. Our government cannot tell you which church to attend.

D. Quartering (Housing) soldiers

_____ 5. Our government cannot force you to have soldiers in your home during peacetime.

E. Right to bear arms

_____ 6. Our government cannot keep you from protesting peacefully.

F. Freedom of the press

_____ 7. Our government cannot search your home without a search warrant.

G. Unreasonable search and seizure

Why is the government's power over the people limited?