3rd-5th grade winners

TAYLOR STRYKER, WALSINGHAM ACADEMY LOWER SCHOOL
1ST PLACE WINNER

Miranda Rights are very important. Miranda Rights state that anything you say, can be used against you in court, you have the right to remain silent, you can get a lawyer for free if you can’t afford one. They are important because if you have nothing to do with a crime, but you get put into custody, the police can’t force you to answer any questions. In our great country, everyone is innocent until proven guilty. We, therefore, have rights, such as the Miranda Rights, to protect the innocent.

DANIEL ZILLA, WALSINGHAM ACADEMY LOWER SCHOOL
2ND PLACE WINNER

When you are arrested, you have the right to remain silent. And if you say anything, it could be held against you. You can ask for a lawyer. But if you don’t have enough money, you are given a lawyer. It’s important because anything you say could be held against you. When you get arrested, don’t talk because you have the right to remain silent. You get a lawyer in court, then you go in court. If you get arrested, don’t talk to the officers because you can give them evidence. This is why the Miranda Rights are important and what they mean to me.

ANNE BARRY, WALSINGHAM ACADEMY LOWER SCHOOL
3RD PLACE WINNER

The Miranda Rights are what protects us in a case of court or unsupervised questioning. There are four Miranda Rights:
- You have the right to remain silent.
- Anything you say can and will be used against you.
- You have the right to a lawyer.
- If you cannot afford a lawyer, you get one no matter what.
If a police officer asks questions, we can say “I wish to not speak” and if they pull out any weapons to make us tell, that information will not be used against you in court. It went into effect in 1966. The rights are important because they give us important rights that we deserve.
6th-8th grade winners

CAMRYN TRABUE, SAWGRASS SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL
1ST PLACE WINNER
You have the right to remain silent! This is what is first said to you when you are in custody and also apart of police procedures. This a part of the Miranda Rights. They are important because it lets you know what your constitutional rights are. It lets the person know they are protected by the 5th and 6th amendments in the Bill of Rights. It helps you from self-incrimination and lets you know you have the right to a legal counsel. It is important because someone without civics knowledge, like immigrants and refugees, wouldn’t know their civil liberties.

ANNABEL TREMPS, PINEY GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2ND PLACE WINNER
Go back to March 2nd, 1963. An 18-year old woman from Phoenix, Arizona, was raped. The accused, Ernesto Miranda’s, trial resulted in the “Miranda Rights we know today. They make up a warning given to anyone that is arrested. Anyone taken into custody must understand their constitutional rights to remain silent and have legal representation. Without the Miranda Rights, the person in custody wouldn’t know their rights which could lead to further issues and complications involving the court. In the stress or trauma of arrest and interrogation, the accused could potentially self-incriminate. Ultimately, these rights protect US citizens.

VALENTINA CELIS, SAWGRASS SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL
3RD PLACE WINNER
Joseph Priestly, a natural philosopher, once stated, “Every man, when he comes to be sensible of his natural rights, and to feel his own importance, will consider himself as fully equal to any other person.” Miranda Rights grant individuals the equality that everyone deserves. Miranda Rights provide citizens the knowledge of their Fifth Amendment rights. Without Miranda Rights, innocent people would be convicted of crimes because they were intimidated into self-incrimination. They’re essential because they inform citizens about their civil rights. Clearly, Miranda Rights are imperative to today’s society because they assist in making the USA a place of justice.
9th-12th grade winners

KAILEIGH THOMPSON, BENSON HIGH SCHOOL
1ST PLACE WINNER
If you were to ever be arrested, then you would hear the Miranda Rights. To me the Miranda Rights mean that if you have been accused of doing something against the law, you still have rights and choices. You can choose to speak or remain silent under the knowledge that whatever you say, could be used for or against you. To me this means that you don't have to explain yourself and you don't have to risk saying something that could hurt your case. As an American I'm grateful to have these rights because others elsewhere don't have them.

ALEXA EVANOFF, MCDOWELL HIGH SCHOOL
2ND PLACE WINNER
Miranda Rights, also called Miranda Warning, are your basic rights that are read to you before an arrest or interrogation. They are the right to remain silent, right to an attorney, and anything you say will be used against you. The officer goes a little more in depth at the time they are read to make sure that the person fully understands. I believe that being read your Miranda Rights is important because everyone has these rights, but in a time of panic, they may not be remembered. Being read your rights keeps everyone at an equal state.

REBECCA TOWNLEY, MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL
3RD PLACE WINNER
The Miranda Rights play an important part in the U.S. legal system. For example, I was out running on the same street a robbery just occurred on. I was arrested because it appeared as if I was running away from the scene of the crime. Although I knew I was not guilty, it may appear as if I was. When I was arrested, I was read the Miranda Rights which protected me from presumed guilt. Without having those rights, I could have been unduly coerced to confess or otherwise implicate myself at the crime.