**Mission Heights Junior College Global Studies Current Events 2022**

**Global Studies – Week 9**

**Does New Zealand have Freedom of Speech?**



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny.”

–Martin Luther King, Jr.

In April 2017, a History professor at Auckland University named Paul Moon), expressed his concerns about freedom of speech in New Zealand. He said that many people and groups with unpopular views are not being allowed to speak at Universities. He was specifically referring to the forced closure, by Auckland University, of a European student club that said they were celebrating European heritage after threats were made to its members. Many students felt that having such a group on campus, appeared to promote white supremacy (that ‘white’ people were superior to darker skinned people). They said they felt nervous about having the club at school.

Read articles A and B:

**Reading A:** Maude, Simon (2017). “’We're not Racist’ claims new European Student Association.” March 6, accessed at: http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/90073114/were-not-racist-claims-new-european-student-association.

**Reading B:** Loren, Anna (2017). “Controversial European students group folds after ‘constant threats to safety.’” March 3, accessed at: http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/90007049/controversial -european-students-group-folds-after-constant-threats-to-safety.

Write 3 paragraphs in the S-E-X-Y writing style.

**Paragraph #1:** Explain why the European student club was not welcome on the campus of Auckland University. For instance, what actions had they taken that made people worried that they might be promoting white supremacy? How did this make some students feel?

**Paragraph #2:** A nearly identical group (with the same name) applied to become a club at AUT (Auckland University of Technology) and were allowed to exist – and seem to have been more accepted. What actions did the AUT club take to make students feel more at ease with them, and to allay fears that they are racist.

**Paragraph #3:** Where do you stand on this issue? Write a forceful summary of your opinion on this debate.

**References:**

Anonymous (2017). “High-profile Kiwis: Free speech under threat in NZ Universities.” *New Zealand Herald*, April 4.

Loren, Anna (2017). “Controversial European students group folds after ‘constant threats to safety.’” March 3, accessed at: http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/90007049/controversial -european-students-group-folds-after-constant-threats-to-safety.

Maude, Simon (2017). ‘We’re not Racist’ claims new European Student Association.” March 6, accessed at: http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/90073114/were-not-racist-claims-new-european-student-association.

**Lesson 3 – Poster on Free Speech:**

Create a poster highlighting free speech in New Zealand. Do Kiwis we have free speech? What are the limits – that is, under what circumstances are you not allowed to just say anything you want? What is ‘hate speech’ and is it allowed in New Zealand? When does your right to express yourself end, and the rights of others begin? For instance, you cannot just walk into a crowded cinema and yell fire. There must be a balance between your right to express yourself, and the rights of others to be safe and free from harassment.