

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

### STORY

**Memo Reveals Bush Administration Legal Theory on Interrogation**, 04/09/08

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june08/torture\\_4-09.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june08/torture_4-09.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the major argument of the 2003 memo?
2. What are some of the controversial methods that have been used by U.S. interrogators?
3. What happened at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq?
4. What are the Fifth and Eighth Amendments and what do they have to do with questioning tactics?
5. How long was the memo used as a guide for Department of Defense behavior?
6. What is waterboarding?
7. What happened to the bill that would have banned water boarding?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Read the description of torture from the U.N. Convention Against Torture. Does waterboarding fall into that category? Explain your reasoning.**

**2. Do you think tactics like waterboarding, head slapping and exposure to extreme temperatures should be used on people suspected of terrorist activity? Why or why not?**

**3. Research the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> amendments and choose to either defend or contradict Yoo's opinion. What are the constitutional arguments for your point of view?**

**4. Find out if the senator for your state or the representative for your district voted for the bill banning waterboarding. Do you think this was an important vote? Why or why not?**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.