

## **NEWSPAPERS (INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS)**

Newspapers bring to life the subjects and issues we address in class every day. The following is a newspaper article from the *Deseret News*. This article tells of Chantal Bunch, a junior at Pine View High School in St. George, who was suspended for having purple hair. Please read the article carefully and answer the attached questions. Be prepared to present the rationale for your answers as we will discuss the article and questions in class.

As you read the article, keep in mind the following: Schools present special First Amendment problems. The rights of students often conflict with the rights of others or interfere with the need to preserve order. When this conflict occurs, courts must balance the competing interests in each case. For the most part, courts find that schools provide only a limited forum for the exercise of First Amendment freedoms. In these places, you can usually exercise your rights, but only as long as the expression does not interfere with the purpose of the facility.

### **Questions**

1. Should having purple hair be considered a form of free expression protected by the Constitution? Why or why not?
2. As the article indicates, Chantal's mother, Annalee, said that she and her daughter plan to discuss the issue with the school board members and the district superintendent.
  - (a) On behalf of the school, what persuasive arguments can be made for their right to regulate Chantal's expression?
  - (b) On behalf of Chantal and her mother, Annalee, what persuasive arguments can be made for permitting Chantal's expression?
3. What do you think of the school's policy? Is it unreasonable? If you believe so, how would you change it?