DEBATER- audition side **(1 of 3)**

*(**HEIDI ACTOR** steps out of the diorama and looks back at the American Legion hall.)*

HEIDI ACTOR. Heidi loved this contest. It made her value her own mind and also believe people would listen to her when she spoke. Which is maybe why I wanted to perform in this play. My name is *[Actress' full name]*. I'm an actor living and working in *[whatever city they are from]* and I'm going to do the rest of this play as myself. And joining me is an actual teenage debater who has agreed to share some of their thoughts with us tonight.

*(The **DEBATER**, a real teenager, enters and stands where "Heidi" stood at the beginning of the show.)*

START

DEBATER. Hi. My name is *[Debater's full name]*. I am a *[their age]*-year-old student from *[whatever high school they are from]* and I've done debate since *[however long they've done debate]*. And what I love about it is: *[what they love about debate]*. I'm here tonight to dig deeper into a big question about our founding document. Is it protecting us, or is it the source of our problems?

Personally I think the answer is both, but for the sake of having a good debate, we are each going to take a different side here tonight.

Before I explain to you the rules of parliamentary debate, though, let me say that the Constitution is *not* a crucible. At least that's not how I like to think of it. Why

not just think of the Constitution as a human being? I mean, it was made by human beings so it's not a big stretch, right? Are human beings perfect? No. Are we capable of perfection? No. But that doesn't mean we are not valuable. We are always growing and changing. Learning. Just like us, this document is flawed. But just like us, it is also capable of getting better.

My opponent brought up the Ninth Amendment in her prepared speech, which went *way* over time by the way. Sure, the penumbra metaphor is an interesting way to understand the Ninth Amendment, and I am not arguing against it. But let me help you understand it another way:

I don't have any imaginary friends. But when I was younger, I did invent a fictional character named Boxellia. Boxellia is a scrillion-year-old AI robot who is shaped like a box and is much smarter than Siri because she knows everything, including the future. Boxellia knows what you're going to do next summer and she knows what life on Earth will be like a thousand years from now. To me, the Ninth Amendment is like Boxellia. She holds the memory of our future. Too bad for us, we won't know what that is until we get there.

chaos. Our country is more divided than it has ever been. The only thing holding us together right now as Americans is faith in this document. We may choose to interpret it differently, but without it we risk complete collapse. If we abolish the Constitution tomorrow, here is what will happen. Same-sex marriage would be illegal in fourteen states. Trans employees could be fired for being trans in twenty-nine states. Segregation would technically be legal in thirty-two states.

Judges, this document is the only thing protecting most of us right now. Abraham Lincoln said the people should not throw out the Constitution, but to throw out the men who abuse it.

*(**MIKE** rings the bell.)* END

MIKE. Abolish, you have thirty seconds to cross-examine.

*(**HEIDI ACTOR** gets up from their table and moves to the front of the stage.)*

HEIDI ACTOR. Many European countries have made brand-new constitutions peacefully. Why are you so sure we can't do the same?

DEBATER. Because our country is more diverse than those countries. We might not have the same peaceful outcome, and that's a risk I'm not willing to take.

HEIDI ACTOR. Yes, but don't you agree that the Supreme Court could roll back all rights you just listed even if we keep this Constitution?