

This brings me to my final argument: If we abolish the Constitution, we risk sending the country into *complete 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. Abortion would be illegal in thirty 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.)*

MIKE

Abolish, you have thirty seconds to cross-examine.

HEIDI

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

ROSDELY

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

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

ROSDELY

NO, I don't agree. Because Supreme Court decisions establish something called precedents, and those precedents are very strong.

HEIDI

The Supreme Court just overturned precedent a few months ago.

ROSDELY

I believe that was an exception—

HEIDI

I think that you're wrong—

*(Mike rings the bell.)*

ROSDELY

Well, I think that you're wrong! Thank you.

MIKE

Time. Each side will have one minute to conclude. Starting with Abolish.

HEIDI

Judges. As a kid, I believed this document was a tool of justice. I knew it was created by slaveholders. By people who did not consider most of us as fully human. But I believed in its genius and in its ability to transform over time. Today, however—I actually don't think our Constitution is failing. I think it is doing exactly what it was designed to do from the beginning, which is to protect the interests of a small number of rich, white men.

BEGIN

END