

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Per: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Pros and Cons of the USA Patriot Act**

After reading each article, answer the following questions:

#### **Article 1: Pros (The Patriot Act: Justice Department Claims Success)**

1. What do federal authorities blame as “at least partly responsible for FBI and CIA intelligence failures prior to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001?” Why?
2. What made it easier for federal agents to identify and prosecute the “Lackawanna Six?”
3. Who were the “Portland Seven?” What happened to them? How were federal authorities able to take them down?
4. How was the Justice Department able to disrupt the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia purchase of Soviet-era weapons?
5. What section of the Patriot Act enabled the FBI to apprehend Jared Bjarnason? What did this part of the law allow the FBI to do?

#### **Article 2: Cons (ACLU on Cons of USA PATRIOT Act)**

1. What was the major target of the ACLU’s legal challenge of the PATRIOT Act?

2. What groups of people does the ACLU accuse the PATRIOT Act of targeting or singling out?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. The ACLU claims that Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act violates many of our freedoms. What amendments are being violated? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What do the six advocacy groups that the ACLU is representing seem to have in common? Why do you think these groups feel targeted by the PATRIOT Act?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. According to the article, what controversial provision of the PATRIOT Act was barred by the U.S. House of Representatives? What did this provision allow government agencies to do?

**Synthesis:**

After reading both articles, do you think the USA PATRIOT Act was, and still is, worth it? (Think about the balance between national security and freedom) Explain your answer.