

# CAPES/ CAFEP EXTERNE D'ANGLAIS

## SESSION 2011

### ÉPREUVE SUR DOSSIER

#### PREMIÈRE PARTIE

Vous procéderez en anglais à la mise en relation des documents suivants, en vous appuyant sur la consigne ci-dessous :

**Comment on the workings of political power in the USA as evidenced in the following documents.**

**Document A** : “US Supreme Court issues major ruling on campaign finance”, by Jim Malone, VOAnews (January 21, 2010)

**Document B (audio)** : “Candidates take aim at cap and trade bill to win votes”, by Elisabeth Shogren, NPR.org (October 28, 2010)

**Document C** : Stills from Joe Manchin’s November 2010 campaign ad

**Document D** : The Bill of Rights (or first 10 amendments to the American Constitution)

## DOCUMENT A

### US Supreme Court issues major ruling on campaign finance

Jim Malone | VOAnews | January 21, 2010

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a long-awaited decision on campaign finance laws Thursday that opens the way for corporations and labor unions to have an even greater impact on the U.S. elections process. A sharply divided Supreme Court, by a vote of five to four, struck down campaign finance laws going back decades that had imposed limits on political contributions from corporations. The ruling is also expected to apply to labor unions and activist groups. The high court ruling could open the money floodgates for corporations and unions, making it easier for them to run their own campaign ads on behalf of or against political candidates. In the 2008 election cycle alone, nearly six billion dollars was spent on all federal campaigns for president and Congress.

The high court's five-member conservative majority equated limits on campaign contributions from corporations with constitutionally unacceptable limits on free speech. Justice Anthony Kennedy said that limits on political speech were unjustified, and the majority struck down laws that had placed limits on the amount of money corporations and unions could spend on election campaigns. Conservative and libertarian groups welcomed the Supreme Court decision, including Steve Simpson with the Institute for Justice. He spoke to reporters in front of the Supreme Court. "The Supreme Court recognized today that the purpose of the First Amendment is to allow individuals and Americans to speak out as loudly and as robustly as they please," he said. "That applies whether an individual chooses to speak out alone or whether he chooses to associate with others and speak out as a group."

The court's liberal four-member minority opposed the change. In his written dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens said the ruling threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions around the nation. A written statement from President Obama at the White House said the high court's decision opens the way to a stampede of special interest money in American politics. Among those speaking out in opposition was Democratic Senator Charles Schumer of New York: "Today's ruling, decided by the slimmest of majorities, guts our system of free and fair elections," he said. "The bottom line is this. The Supreme Court has just predetermined the winners of next November's elections. It won't be Republicans. It won't be Democrats. It will be corporate America."

Government watchdog groups that monitor corruption and the influence of special interests said the Supreme Court ruling opens the way for corporations and labor unions to exert even more influence on the elections process. Bob Edgar is president of the monitoring group Common Cause: "We need to recognize that money has influenced the debate here in Washington for too long," said Edgar. "Even the health care debate was already tainted by how much money had flooded into the system. The elected officials in the House and Senate are going to end up serving special interests even more than they do today and not the public's interest."

The ruling will apply to this year's congressional midterm elections in November and could lead to a barrage of corporate and union sponsored television ads during the campaign that were previously restricted.

## DOCUMENT B

### AUDIO Candidates take aim at cap and trade bill to win votes

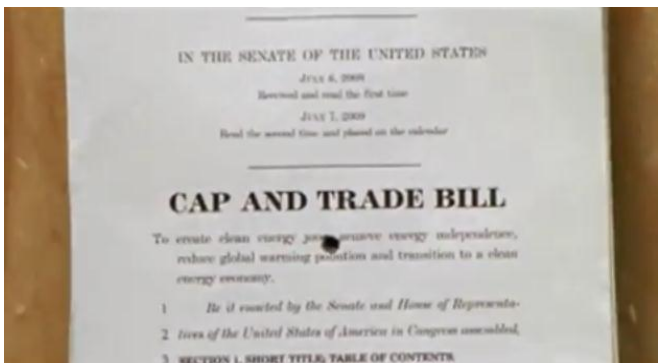
By Elisabeth Shogren | taken from NPR.org | October 28, 2010

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=130888515>

From 0'00'' to about 1'15''. Also includes the soundtrack from Joe Manchin's ad.

# DOCUMENT C

## Stills from Joe Manchin's November 2010 campaign ad



NB: The NRA is an American non-profit organization which advocates the protection of the Second Amendment of the United States Bill of Rights and the promotion of firearm ownership rights

## DOCUMENT D

**The Bill of Rights** – ratified December 15, 1791

**First Amendment** –

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

**Second Amendment** –

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

**Third Amendment** –

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

**Fourth Amendment** –

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

**Fifth Amendment** –

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

**Sixth Amendment** –

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

**Seventh Amendment** –

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

**Eighth Amendment** –

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

**Ninth Amendment** –

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

**Tenth Amendment** –

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.