Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The gag rule prevented her from warning the patron or debating the order publicly, cutting off the transparency and accountability that normally check government power. She had to carry the secret alone, which is exactly what critics said made Section 215 dangerous.
2. Since she could not legally refuse the order, she changed what records existed in the first place. Deleting returned-book histories protected future patrons by leaving nothing to seize — resistance through data minimization rather than defiance.

Multiple Choice

1. B
2. C
3. A

Matching

1-C, 2-E, 3-A, 4-B, 5-D

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) October, 2) FISA, 3) Snowden

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Congress acted 45 days after 9/11 under enormous public pressure to prevent another attack. Legislating that fast meant few members read the full bill, so sweeping powers became law with little debate — powers that proved very hard to roll back later.

Q2: The American Library Association and individual librarians publicly challenged Section 215, warned patrons, and lobbied Congress. Their pressure helped add transparency requirements in the 2005-2006 renewals and kept the privacy debate alive until the USA Freedom Act reforms.

Q3: Answers will vary. Strong responses weigh the absence of another 9/11-scale attack against the dangers of secret programs revealed by Snowden, and take a clear position on whether citizens can hold accountable a government whose actions they cannot see.