Letter to the President: Outline

**Prompt:** After reading primary and secondary sources on amendments and Supreme Court cases that illustrate the issues of common good versus individual rights in today’s America, you will write a letter to the President of the United States in which you explain that it is essential for all Federal and Supreme Court justice appointments to maintain the balance of common good and individual rights. You will utilize a current event/issue to illustrate this importance throughout your letter.

**Paragraph 1:**
- **Explain who you are and why you are writing the letter.**
  
  *Hello, my name is ___________ and I am writing this letter to stress the importance of appointing Federal and Supreme Court justices who will...*

- **Explain what you mean by individual rights and common good. Explain why maintaining a balance between common good and individual rights is important in our government/society.**
  
  *Maintaining individual rights means...*

  *Protecting the common good means...*

- **Introduce the amendment you will be referencing throughout the letter (the 1st Amendment) and why it is important. Explain how this amendment relates to both individual rights and the common good.**
  
  *For example, the 1st Amendment, which is _____________________________, is a good example of why we must balance individual rights and the common good. This amendment...*

**Paragraph 2:**
- **Introduce a current event (the removal of Confederate flags and monuments) and explain why this is a 1st Amendment issue.**
  
  *Recently, many confederate monuments and flags...*

  *This is related to the 1st Amendment because...*
• Explain how the current event (the removal of Confederate monuments and flags) is a conflict between both individual rights and the common good.
  
  *This event...*

• Explain how the Supreme Court has addressed the 1st Amendment in the past using one (or more) Supreme Court case we have looked at in class.
  
  *In ______ (year), the case of _______________________________ ruled that...*

• Explain if you think the Supreme Court would consider your current event (the executive order) unconstitutional or not, based on how they have ruled in past cases regarding the 1st Amendment.
  
  *Based on this/these rulings, I believe...*

**Paragraph 3:**

• Explain the importance of appointing judicial officials who will maintain the balance between common good and individual rights.
  
  *As the Chief Executive of the United States it is your job to appoint...*

  *When considering a federal judge or justice for appointment...*

  *Balancing individual rights and the common good is important because...*

**Paragraph 4:**

• Thank the president for considering your point of view or for taking the time to read your letter.