

Handout #1
The Right to Religious Freedom

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The following questions accompany Chapter 8, “Keeping the Faith: the Right to Religious Freedom,” in *Wherever There’s a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California*. Each group will answer the questions below for your section of the text.

- 1) Who are the protagonists in this story (the main characters)? Give as much detail as is necessary for us to understand why they would show up in this story.
- 2) What happened (or was threatened to happen) to them?
- 3) Give examples (if applicable) of how they suffered as a result of their rights being violated
- 4) Was there something about the context (the time period or the place where the events happened) that magnified or made stronger the effort to violate the protagonists’ rights? Were there commonly held prejudices that impacted their experience?
- 5) Choose language (a phrase or set of sentences) from a judge’s decision (or an attorney’s argument) and write it down—why did you choose this quote to highlight?
- 6) What, in this story, was surprising to you? Why was it surprising?
- 7) For the government officials who moved to violate someone’s First Amendment rights—how do you think they would describe or defend their actions? Why did they do it (or plan/want to do it?) What values/customs/ideas do you think they were acting to protect?

Choose a quote from your section that your group feels is a compelling statement about the issues raised in your section—write it on a large piece of poster paper and post it on the wall.