

- What motivates Otis to oppose the writs even without payment or official duty?
- Why does he describe the writs as “instruments of slavery and villainy”?
- Why does Otis believe conscience should outweigh personal safety or career advancement?
- How does he connect British liberty to resisting arbitrary power?
- What legal distinction does Otis make between “special” and “general” writs?
- Why does he argue that a power useful in one form becomes dangerous when generalized?
- How do the universality and perpetuity of the writ create the possibility for tyranny?
- Why is the principle that “a man’s house is his castle” essential to liberty?
- How does the story of Mr. Ware demonstrate the danger of unaccountable authority?
- Why does Otis believe examples are necessary in addition to legal theory?
- Why would broad access to writs lead to social chaos rather than security?
- How does misuse of power provoke cycles of retaliation?
- Why does Otis argue that laws contrary to fundamental rights are invalid—even if enacted?
- How does constitutional principle limit legislative authority?
- What safeguards does Otis insist must precede lawful searches?
- Why must probable cause and judicial oversight be separated from simple executive enforcement?
- “If the government could search anyone’s home at any time in the name of safety... where would liberty end?”
- Draw a line on the board and label each end “Absolute Security” and “Absolute Liberty” and ask each student where they would fall on that line, then discuss the implications:
 - Why did you choose your position on the line?
 - Which dangers worry you more — crime or government power?