

# The Secrecy Spectrum, Part 1

As you read the documents, determine where to place them on the “Secrecy Spectrum” below, based on the degree to which you believe the document illustrates that position on the essential question. Be prepared to explain your reasoning.

**Essential Question: What is the role of a secret intelligence agency in a transparent democracy?**

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A secret intelligence agency has NO place in a democratic nation.

A secret intelligence agency should exist to gather information.

A secret intelligence agency should promote the expansion of democracy in a peaceful manner.

A secret agency should promote the interests of the U.S. by whatever means necessary.

## The Secrecy Spectrum, Part 2

Consider your personal beliefs about the role of a secret intelligence agency in a transparent democracy. While we no longer are in an ideological conflict over the spread of communism, we know the CIA is at work today. For example, recent debates include the gathering of information on average American citizens in order to combat terrorist threats at home. Do you believe such activity as wire-tapping or accessing email is acceptable in a democracy? Should Americans know that the CIA is doing such things, or does the government have a right to secrecy in order to keep Americans safe? Consider how all of these points relate to the essential question and complete the spectrum based on your own beliefs. Be prepared to explain your reasoning.

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