“Facebook Arrests Ignite Free-Speech Debate in India”

1. Who is Shaheen Dhada and why did she become so famous?

2. Who is Bal Thackeray?

3. Describe the Hindu party of Shiv Sena. What are some of the ways they use violence?

4. Retired Supreme Court Justice, Markandey Katju, says Dhada’s post actually underscores a Supreme Court ruling that bringing a city to a standstill is illegal. Explain this in further details.

5. What does this situation have to do with religion?

6. Do you believe that the police succumbed to the will of Shiv Sena? Explain.

7. What is the Information Technology Act in India? What is the problem with this act?

8. Why do you think that Dhada is under a “self-imposed house arrest”?

9. Write ½ page reflecting on this article. Use the questions below to help guide your reflection:

* How would you feel if this happened to you?
* Would this happen in the U.S.? If it did, what would the public’s response be?
* Do you think the government was right or wrong to arrest her? Explain.
* Do you think that Dhada had the right to post something like this? Explain.
* Do you think that Dhada’s relgion (Islam) affects her in this situation?