

# The Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798

## Document 2

An Act in Addition to the Act, Entitled “An Act for the Punishment of Certain Crimes Against the United States (excerpt)

SECTION 2. [I]f any person shall write, print, [speak] or publish, or shall cause to be written, printed, [spoken] or published, or shall knowingly and willingly assist or aid in writing, printing, [speaking] or publishing any false, scandalous and malicious writing against the government of the United States, or either house of Congress, or the President of the United States, with intent to defame (damage a reputation of) the government, or either house of Congress, or the President, or to bring them into contempt (worthlessness) or disrepute (Held low by the public); or to excite against them the hatred of the people of the United States, or to stir up sedition (rebellion) within the United States, or to excite any combinations [of the above] [to oppose or resist] any law of the United States, or any act of the President of the United States, or to aid, encourage or [help] hostile...foreign nation[s] against United States...[T]hen such person, being convicted...shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, and by imprisonment not exceeding two years.

3) What does this act prohibit?

4) Which groups of people are being targeted by this act? (Think about who might disagree with Adams. Another group would be where the majority of the American public receives their information.)