

21st Century U.S. Constitution

OOPS...we lost the Constitution. You just found out you will be creating a new and updated Constitution of the United States of America! Along with 2 other group members, your coveted task includes updating the oldest written Constitution still in existence. Your goal is to create/modify the Constitution in order to fit our society's needs today.

You all know the Constitution is over 200 years old and its original intent is often controversial. The wordings of the articles/amendments are vague and hard to interpret. Your task is to re-write and re-vamp a Constitution that **ALL** Americans can understand and abide by. As a group you will need to examine our existing Constitution. It is up to you to decide how to restore/reword/recreate in order for **ALL** Americans to understand them collectively. This will require all group members to decide on **ONE** common interpretation of each article/amendment. This means, as a group, you will need to decide which **NEW** amendments should be added to the Constitution.

Objectives: Students will create/develop a Constitution and analyze the significance as the foundation of the American republic.

- Include the fundamental principles of American constitutional democracy, including how the government derives its power from the people and the primacy of individual rights/liberty.
 - *limited government, republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, ratification, supremacy, budget (taxes), rule of law, political participation, political parties, mass media/press, voting rights, civil liberties, civil rights, citizenship.*
- Include an understanding of how the Constitution is designed to secure our liberty by both empowering and limiting central government and compare the powers granted to citizens, Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court with those reserved to the States.
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- Discuss/Include the meaning of the American creed that calls on citizens to safeguard the liberty of individual Americans within a unified nation, to respect the rule of law, and to preserve the Constitution.
 - Address this in a Preamble.

Questions to consider...

1. To what extent should the federal government be involved in economic issues?
2. What should be the role of citizens in creating public policy?
3. How should power be divided between the federal government and the states?
4. Should voter ballot initiatives be allowed to overturn laws passed by legislative bodies?

Grading: A More Perfect Union

- Preamble (10 Points)
- Articles (20 Points)
- Amendments (20 Points)