

Celebrate the Constitution 2010

Message from PBA President, Gretchen A. Mundorff

Help us make sure every child learns something about our Constitution and government and knows something about the rights and responsibilities of being a United States citizen. [Read Gretchen's message online](#), or print from this [PDF version](#).

PBA Celebrate the Constitution Poster, Essay and Video/Audio Contests

This year's theme is "Freedom Rocks!" Use this as a fun follow-up activity to assess students' comprehension of your lesson on the Constitution or American government. What makes our country different from other countries, what freedoms do we enjoy, what is the student's favorite freedom or right? Encourage your students to enter the poster or essay contest or work as a class to develop a video/audio project about freedom, rights and why living in the United States of America really rocks!

[Poster Contest Rules](#)

[Essay and Class Video/Audio Project Contest Rules](#)

Official Entry Forms - Celebrate the Constitution Poster, Essay and Video/Audio Contests

[Poster and Essay Contest Official Entry Form](#)

[Class Video/Audio Project Contest Official Entry Form](#)

Watch this example of an [elementary video/audio project](#) from first graders in the Allentown School District.

[Listen to an original rap](#) on Authority, Responsibility, Privacy, Justice performed by first grade students in Mike Keefer's class in the Allentown School District.

[Rap Lyrics - Word Doc](#)

Make a Rap about the Constitution

Get inspired by these videos of young people who have composed their own rap songs about the U.S. Constitution and American history. There are many more on YouTube. These are just a few examples.

[Sixth graders performing the Preamble](#) - a great class activity

[Constitution Rap](#)

[Constitution Rap](#)

[Bill of Rights Rap](#)

Schoolhouse Rock

U.S. Constitution [Preamble song from Schoolhouse Rock](#) - You Tube Video

An [elementary class performing](#) the Schoolhouse Rock version of the Preamble. Why not try this with your class? Enlist the help of the music teacher!

Just for fun - this [two-year old recites the preamble](#) on YouTube

Hand signs for the preamble. Use these [hand signs](#) to help students remember and act out the Preamble.

The U.S. Constitution

[National Archives web](#)

[National Constitution Center web](#)

[Constitutional Sources Project web](#)

Bill of Rights: The First Ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution [Student Handout](#)

Pennsylvania Constitution

The [Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

[Information and explanation](#) about the Pennsylvania Constitution

Declaration of Rights from the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - [Student Handout](#)

Lesson: The Pennsylvania Constitution as Compared to the United States Constitution

A Look at the Pennsylvania and U.S. Constitutions - Rights and Freedoms: Where Are They Found?

Preamble Scramble

Online Activities

[iCivics](#) (formerly Our Courts)

[iCivics](#) is a web-based education project designed to teach students civics and inspire them to be active participants in our democracy. iCivics is the vision of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who is concerned that students are not getting the information and tools they need for civic participation, and that civics teachers need better materials and support.

FantasySCOTUS - Supreme Court of the United States

FantasySCOTUS is a Supreme Court fantasy league in which players predict current case outcomes, and it is already a wild hit with law students, attorneys, and judicial chambers across the country. In the high school edition, Harlan selects cases of special interest to students. The students learn about fundamental legal principles, make predictions about these cases, compete and collaborate with other classes nationwide, and write analytical blog posts about them. The site is free for all teachers and students to use, and can be used as a classroom exercise, or in extra-curricular clubs like debate teams or Junior Statesmen of America clubs. FantasySCOTUS is effective for pedagogical purposes because it is real and relevant. Rather than focusing entirely on cases from the past, as all textbooks do, students address current cases that they read about in the news. The study of law is routinely presented as dry, dull, and irrelevant to most people; FantasySCOTUS elaborates on current cases which have immediate impacts on people's lives.

The Harlan Institute

The Harlan Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping high school teachers educate students about the United States Constitution and our legal system. The Harlan Institute's mission is to bring about a stylized law school experience into the high school classroom to ensure that our next generation of leaders have a proper understanding of our most fundamental laws. By utilizing the expertise of leading legal scholars and the interactivity of online games, Harlan will help teachers introduce students to the Constitution, the cases of the United States Supreme Court, and our system of justice. Visit The Harlan Institute's website (www.harlaninstitute.org) to register your classroom and access free lesson plans on current Supreme Court cases, as well as interactive forums and chat rooms. While visiting the site, teachers may also contact staff at Harlan to discuss the program in more detail and how it can supplement their teaching plans.

Center for Civic Education

Please visit the Center for Civic Education's newly designed web site for excellent **Constitution Day lessons** categorized by grade level.

C-SPAN Classroom

The U.S. Constitution: Teachable Clips is a virtual U.S. Constitution. It features video clips taken from C-SPAN's Video Library with prominent political figures discussing various parts of the Constitution.

U.S. Constitution Vignette (18 minutes)

A **short documentary video** on the history, meaning, and provisions of the U.S. Constitution, as well as the operation of government within the parameters set forth in the U.S. Constitution. Video footage highlights the operation of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government by providing footage of several recent events and activities such as presidential inaugurations, impeachment proceedings, legislative events, and Supreme Court oral arguments. Chief Justice Roberts also talked about ways in which the Constitution had been interpreted and its function as a working document. Classroom discussion questions are provided.

How to search the C-SPAN Video Library

A short **YouTube** video produced by "Howcast" to help you search the C-SPAN Video Library www.c-span.org/videolibrary.

American Institute for History Education

The American Institute for History Education (AIHE) was established to provide engaging historical content and activities for social studies and history teachers to use in their classrooms. AIHE has developed products to dramatically increase students' academic achievements by boosting their comprehension of historical events, personalities and issues. Teaching American History Beyond the Textbook™ with CICERO, and other AIHE tools, improves critical thinking, reading and understanding skills. AIHE specializes in teaching history, professional development for teachers, curriculum design and teaching history products, school grant writing and more.

AIHE TV

AIHE TV has videos for history teachers, students and history buffs.

60-Second Civics

60-Second Civics is a **daily podcast** from the Center for Civic Education that provides a quick and convenient way for listeners to learn about our nation's government, the Constitution, and our history. The podcast explores themes related to civics and government, the constitutional issues behind the headlines, and the people and ideas that formed our nation's history and government. The show's content is primarily derived from the Center's education for democracy curricula, including We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution, Project Citizen, Foundations of Democracy, and Elements of Democracy.

Annenberg Classroom

Annenberg Classroom offers a wide array of educational resources under a single umbrella. Educators can find curricula, lesson plans, multimedia programs, and other teaching materials all indexed and in conformance with the educational

standards of their state. Search by keyword, by subject area, or by state standard to find one of the richest sets of teaching aids available in a single location.

Which Founder Are You?

Have students take the "**Which Founder Are You?**" online quiz from the National Constitution Center. Students answer a series of questions that help them learn about themselves and then see which of the drafters of the Constitution they are most like. The quiz helps make the Founding fathers more relatable to students and shows them as "ordinary" men.

The Living Room Candidate: Presidential Campaign Commercials 1952 - 2008

This is a great resource for teachers! The site has presidential election campaign commercials from 1952-2008 and includes lesson plans.

Constitution Day Videos feature Supreme Court Justices Talking with Students about the Constitution

Viewers will get firsthand perspectives on how the Supreme Court decides what the Constitution means when they watch a 37-minute conversation with Justices Antonin Scalia, Stephen Breyer and a group of high school students. The taped discussion explores different theories of judicial interpretation and how they affect not only the outcomes of cases but democracy and daily life.

The video is available on the Educational Outreach pages of the federal courts' Internet site at <http://www.uscourts.gov/outreach/index.html> and can be shown on a large screen. Courts have found it easy to host high school students to watch the program in a courtroom. A judge facilitates the follow-up discussion of the issues using an optional, prepared discussion guide found at <http://www.uscourts.gov/outreach/resources/constitutionday.html#discussion>

PBS - Public Broadcasting Service Lessons

Why Celebrate Constitution Day? A lesson Plan for grades 9-12 from PBS.

Supreme Court Watch

George Washington and the Rule of Law

George Washington and Civic Virtue And there are others on topics like slavery, religious liberty, equal protection of law, government by consent, constitution and idea of compromise, and more.

Inside the Voting Booth What a difference one vote makes - an historical look at how elections would have been changed by one vote.

Step into a voting time machine - would you have been able to vote in another time in history?

You Make the Rules Small groups of students form their own clubs then determine their mission and common goals, a name for their club, and a logo. Then each group writes a charter which specifies their goals, decision-making procedures, meeting times, and so on. Upon completion, each group member signs the charter.

Lessons

Resources from StreetLaw

New resources from the 2010 Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers

New and updated **resources and teaching materials** for recently decided Supreme Court cases are now available on the Institute's resource page.

About the Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers

Since it began in 1995, the **Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers** has brought together over 800 teachers from across the country to convene in Washington, D.C., for six days of educational activities related to teaching about the U.S. Supreme Court. The Institute is co-sponsored by the Supreme Court Historical Society.

Teaching about *Miranda* warnings

During the 2009-10 term, the U.S. Supreme Court considered several cases about *Miranda* warnings. We have collected a variety of **teaching resources**, both on the original case of *Miranda v. Arizona*, and on the issues regarding these warnings over the past 44 years.

The Best of StreetLaw.org

A compilation of links to **StreetLaw's most popular resources**.

What are my Rights?

High School 9 - 12

Time: Three 1-hour sessions

Author: Leslie Harper Blatteau New Haven, Connecticut

Studying the Constitution can seem less than vital to students who are most interested in issues that directly affect them. **This**

lesson engages students in a study of the First Amendment by using it to explore youth curfews, demonstrating the impact that the law can have on their everyday lives. Using the text of the First Amendment as a starting point, students discuss whether youth curfews are constitutional. They then use a case study to closely examine both sides of the issue, debate the issue with their peers, hypothesize about the possibility of a youth curfew in their own community, and create a blog about the issue.

Bill of Rights Institute

Celebrate Constitution Day, September 17, with these activities provided by the Bill of Rights Institute.

We the People

This **lesson from Scholastic** helps students in grades 5-8 recognize the different parts of the U.S. Constitution and understand the significance of each part. Students will build their reading and interpretive skills by working with newspaper articles and drawing conclusions based on the information presented. They will summarize their conclusions through persuasive writing.

Orb and Effy Learn about Authority (Elementary level)

A complete lesson on authority from the **Orb and Effy Learn about Authority book**. In this lesson, young children learn that when people have a right to tell others what to do in certain situations, they are exercising authority. When they do not have that right, they are exercising power without authority. Children learn some ways in which people earn the right to exercise authority. The lesson also illustrates problems that are likely to arise in the absence of effective authority. Children learn how and why authority is useful

A Classroom Lesson on Developing the Federal Budget

Grade level 11-12

Time required: 2 class periods

During the Dirksen Congressional Center's annual Congress in the Classroom workshop participants are asked to introduce the lesson plans, resources, and techniques that have proven successful in teaching about Congress in their classrooms. A 2005 participant, Lori Dumerer, R.L. Turner High School, Carrollton, TX, presented a lesson entitled, "**The Saga of the Money Trail: Developing the Federal Budget**." In this lesson, students trace the steps in the federal budget-making process. They will recognize the complexity involved in the budget process, including the competing demands for funds. Students will analyze how compromise leads to the final budget.

Mock Constitution Signing [pdf](#)

Visit the National Constitution Center web site to order a

What Responsibilities Accompany Our Rights?

[Teacher's version pdf](#)

[Student version pdf](#)

What is a Republican Government?

[Teacher's version pdf](#)

[Student version pdf](#)

Celebrate the Constitution special **court re-enactment program from Chester County**. Includes a script and mock trial related to slavery and freedom issues.

Teaching Civics through Literature - A Reading List [Word Doc pdf](#)

Mindwalk - "Ten Things I'd Rather Be Doing" (and other variations) [pdf](#)

The Constitutional Mindwalk [pdf](#)

The Constitution and Money [pdf](#)

Effectively Using Judges and Lawyers as Community Resources in Your Classroom: A Guide for Teachers [pdf](#)

How One Pennsylvania School District "Celebrates the Constitution" and Civics Education All Year Long [pdf](#)

Classroom Discussions and Activities

Right to Jury Trial

Ask students to describe what it would be like if there were no jury. Who would decide the outcome of a case if there were no

jury? Would this be more fair? Is a judge better able to decide the law, facts and truth than citizens? What are some benefits to a jury system? Why did we decide to have a jury system? Are there other alternatives besides a judge or a jury?

Develop a Student Bill of Rights

Ask students to create a comic strip or cartoon about...

- Most important right
- Student making a difference in the school

Test Your Knowledge -What's your Constitution IQ? Interactive and print versions are available. There is a basic 10 questions quiz and two different, 50-questions, "expert" level tests (appropriate for high school students)

Constitution Fun Facts [pdf](#)

Elementary-level Word Find [pdf](#)

Constitution Word Find [pdf](#)

Word Finds for high school students. Includes vocabulary list with definitions. [web](#)

Elementary-level Word find

A Constitutional Logic Puzzle [Student Handout \(pdf\)](#) [Answer Sheet \(pdf\)](#)

Cryptogram (US Constitution Preamble) [pdf](#)

Constitution LINGO and Anagrams [pdf](#)

Coloring Pages

Below are some links to coloring pages for you to evaluate for your use in teaching about the Constitution and other U.S. history, government and civics lessons. We welcome resources and ideas from you that you would like to share with your colleagues.

Constitution Preamble Coloring Sheet [pdf](#)

For "Celebrate the Constitution" you could use George Washington and James Madison the only two presidents to sign the Constitution

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/presidentsday/color/>

Coloring pages of most presidents <http://www.freekidscoloring.com/american/presidents>

<http://www.usconstitution.net/constpix.html#color>

Benjamin Franklin http://www.freekidscoloring.com/famous_people_benjamin_franklin-612.php (Benjamin Franklin)

Benjamin Franklin - print and color or color online <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/coloring-pages/famous-americans-in-history/ben-franklin.html>

Coloring pages of many historical people with a short paragraph about their life.

<http://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/learn/leaders/>

Coloring book about the rights found in the First Amendment

http://www.illinoisfirstamendmentcenter.com/pdf/CB_2ND_ENG.pdf

"Proud to Be an American" ethnically diverse kids <http://www.abcteach.com/USA/unit/proudcolor.htm>

U.S. Constitution coloring pages Published by the Oklahoma Bar Association pdf

Coloring pages of the White House, Independence Hall, US Supreme Court, etc.

<http://www.usconstitution.net/constpix.html#color>

Children's Literature with Social Studies Themes

The Delaware Center for Teacher Education, Delaware Social Studies Education Project at the University of Delaware has developed [an excellent web resource](#) illustrating how children's books can be used to teach social studies themes. Books are listed for grades K-2, 3-4 and 5-6 in the categories of History, Geography, Economics and Civics. Civics books are further categorized into Government, Rules and Laws, Values and Principles, Citizen's Rights and Privileges and Participation in Civic Life.

"America's Legislators Back to School Program" from the National Conference of State Legislatures

The program kicks off in September and runs throughout the school year giving legislators and teachers flexibility in scheduling classroom visits. Information is available on the NCSL Web site and includes lesson plans that outline for students the importance of representative democracy, the message that their voice counts and the valid role of special interest groups in the process. The plans complement the NCSL publication "Your Ideas Count," a student booklet used by legislators as a "leave behind" resource after their classroom visit. Teachers are invited to download the lesson plans and use them as appropriate in their classrooms. There are [lesson plans](#) for high school, middle school and elementary school classes. Many other resources are available on NCSL's [America's Legislators Back to School Program](#) Web page.

The Dirksen Congressional Center

[Lesson Plans about Congress](#) on the Web

Justice by the People

These [easy-to-use, turnkey lesson plans and student reproducibles](#) are designed to help you teach students about the Sixth and Seventh Amendments to the United States Constitution and the critical importance of the right to trial by jury.

Landmark Cases

This site was developed to provide teachers with a full range of resources and activities to support the [teaching of landmark Supreme Court cases](#), helping students explore the key issues of each case.

Education World Lesson Planning for Constitution Day

Education World has gathered [dozens of lesson ideas and other resources](#) to help you recognize Constitution Day, whether you teach kindergarten or college.

Getting the Word Out to the Community

Involving the Media and Legal Community [pdf](#)

Sample Media Advisory [pdf](#) [Word](#)

Sample News Release [pdf](#) [Word](#)

Resources

[PennCORD](#), Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy

[Pennsylvania Bar Foundation](#)

[LEAP-Kids \(Law, Education & Peace for Children\)](#)

[American Bar Association](#)

[American Institute for History Education](#)

[Arlin M. Adams Center for Law and Society at Susquehanna University](#)

[Center for Civic Education](#)

[C-SPAN Classroom](#)

[Bill of Rights Institute](#)

[National Constitution Center](#)

[Constitutional Rights Foundation](#)

[Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago](#)

[Youth for Justice](#)

[Landmark Cases](#)

[Scholastic](#)

[StreetLaw](#)

Archives of past PBA *Celebrate the Constitution* Programs and Lesson Guides

2007 [Lesson Guide](#) [Program Overview](#)

2006 [Lesson Guide](#) [Program Overview](#)

2005 [Lesson Guide](#) [Program Overview](#)

2004 [Lesson Guide](#) [Program Overview](#)

2003 [Lesson Guide](#) [Program Overview](#)

2002 [Lesson Guide](#) [Program Overview](#)

2001 [Lesson Guide](#) [Program Overview](#)

2000 [Lesson Guide](#) [Program Overview](#)

1999 Lesson Guide [Program Overview](#)

1999 [PBA Wins National Outreach Award](#)