

Name _____

Period _____

The Amendments Notes

The Constitution is the backbone of the country and our government. The Constitution is a living document that, through the amendment process, can always evolve with the changing times and needs of the country. It is vital to understand how and why the Constitution can be and has been changed because then one can see where the country has been and where it may go in the future.

I. What are amendments?

A. An amendment is _____

B. The process by which amendments are created is outlined in _____ of the Constitution.

C. Amendments have been made to the Constitution in order to _____ existing laws or procedures.

II. How are amendments made?

A. In order to suggest, or propose, an amendment, it requires a _____ vote of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

B. This is not an easy process.

C. Out of the 12,000 proposed amendments, only _____ have actually been made.

D. In order to get ratified, or approved, _____ of states must vote yes on it.

III. What amendments have been made to the Constitution?

A. _____ amendments have been made to the Constitution.

B. The first 10 amendments are called the _____.

C. The last amendment was passed in _____.

IV. The Amendments

A. The Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-10)

1. First Amendment: Establishes _____ for all citizens:
 - a) Freedom of _____
 - b) Freedom of _____
 - c) Freedom of _____
 - d) Freedom of _____
 - e) Freedom of _____

2. Second Amendment
 - a) Establishes the right to _____.

3. Third Amendment
 - a) Protects us from having to _____.
 - b) This protects of from having to _____.

4. Fourth Amendment
 - a) Protects us against unreasonable _____.
 - b) Unreasonable searches include authorities going through your _____ & searching your person.
 - c) Unreasonable seizure includes authorities _____ your personal items.
 - d) Authorities cannot search or seize you or your belongings without a _____.
 - e) A warrant can only be issued on the basis of _____

5. Fifth Amendment
 - a) Rights you get when going on _____.
 - b) No one can be held for a serious crime without being presented to a _____.
 - c) _____: No one can be tried for the same crime twice.

6. Sixth Amendment
 - a) All criminals have the right to a _____ and a _____ trial with an unbiased _____.
 - b) _____: the accused has to be informed of the charges against them.

c) The accused has the right to a _____.

7. Seventh Amendment

a) People in court cases worth more than \$20 have the right to a _____.

8. Eighth Amendment

a) Criminals cannot be punished with _____ or excessive, or huge, fines.

9. Ninth Amendment

a) Enumeration of rights may not be denied
b) This means each person is guaranteed the rights of life, _____ and the _____.

10. Tenth Amendment

a) The powers not given to the federal government by the Constitution are reserved to the _____
b) This means the powers of the federal government are _____ to what is written in the Constitution.
c) So if it is not written in the Constitution as being a power of the federal government, then each _____ has the power.

B. Amendments 11-27

1. Eleventh Amendment

a) _____ cannot sue other states in federal court.

2. Twelfth Amendment

a) Lays out the rules of _____ the President and Vice President.
b) _____ electoral votes are needed for a President to win
c) If no candidate gets 270 electoral votes, the _____ decides who the winner is.

3. Thirteenth Amendment

a) Abolished, or ended, _____.

4. Fourteenth Amendment
 - a) All citizens are given _____.
 - b) Gave _____ to freed slaves.
5. Fifteenth Amendment
 - a) _____ rights cannot be denied to a citizen based on _____.
 - b) This gave African Americans the right to _____.
6. Sixteenth Amendment
 - a) Created the _____.
7. Seventeenth Amendment
 - a) Established a system for _____ for Senators.
8. Eighteenth Amendment
 - a) Prohibited, or outlawed, the making, transporting and selling of _____.
 - b) Another word for this is _____.
9. Nineteenth Amendment
 - a) Gave _____ the right to vote.
 - b) This is also known as _____.
10. Twentieth Amendment
 - a) Sets the terms of the President to _____ years.
11. Twenty-First Amendment
 - a) Repeals, or _____ the 18th amendment.
 - b) This made _____ legal again.
12. Twenty-Second Amendment
 - a) Limits the President to only serving _____ terms.
13. Twenty-Third Amendment
 - a) Washington D.C. gets to have _____ in the electoral college.
14. Twenty-Fourth Amendment
 - a) Prohibits, or outlaws, _____.
15. Twenty-Fifth Amendment
 - a) Sets in place the Presidential _____.

- b) This is to make sure the office of President will be filled at all times and under all circumstances.

16. Twenty-Sixth Amendment

- a) Lowered the voting age from 21 to _____.
- b) This happened during the Vietnam War with the argument that 18 year old soldiers could go die for their country but not elect their leaders.

17. Twenty-Seventh Amendment

- a) Limits the _____ in pay Congress gets.

Something to ponder.....With all of these amendments in mind, what contemporary events and/or issues may lead to constitutional amendments in the future?