



Understanding Amendments

Activity: Understanding Amendments

Category: Research Project

Series: Examining Primary Sources (12 Questions About the US Constitution)

Supplies

- *12 Questions About the US Constitution*
- The book's 12StoryLibrary.com page: <http://www.12storylibrary.com/non-fiction/examining-primary-sources/12-questions-about-the-us-constitution/>
 - The “All About the Constitution” web resource
 - “The Heritage Guide to the Constitution” web resource
 - “The Annenberg Guide to the United States Constitution” web resource
 - The “Interactive Constitution” web resource
- *12 Questions About the Bill of Rights*
- The book's 12StoryLibrary.com page: <http://www.12storylibrary.com/non-fiction/examining-primary-sources/12-questions-about-the-bill-of-rights/>
- The 12StoryLibrary.com Primary Sources page: <http://www.12storylibrary.com/primary/>

Prep

Have the students read *12 Questions About the US Constitution*. Also have them use the “Primary Source” web resource to read the US Constitution.

Directions

More than 11,000 amendments to the US Constitution have been proposed. However, only 27 have been added to the Constitution. Have each student choose one of the 27 amendments to study. They should research the following questions:

1. What does the amendment say?
2. When was this amendment added to the Constitution?
3. Why is this amendment important?

The students should use both print and digital resources. They should all include information from the *12 Questions About the US Constitution*, the “All About the Constitution” web resource, “The Heritage Guide to the Constitution” web resource, and “The Annenberg Guide to the Constitution” web resource. Encourage the students to also use *12 Questions About the Bill of Rights* and other web resources from the 12StoryLibrary.com pages for *12 Questions About the US Constitution* and *12 Questions About the Bill of Rights*.

The students should use their research to produce one page of writing that answers the three questions. Their answers to each question should include at least one quote or paraphrase from one of their sources. The students should also create one page that lists their sources.

Evaluation

Did the students accurately answer each question? Did they quote or paraphrase at least one source in each answer? Did they include a page listing their sources? W 6.7, W 6.8

Purpose

To help students deepen their understanding of the US Constitution’s amendments by using several print and digital sources to conduct a short research project. To help students practice quoting and paraphrasing accurately, avoiding plagiarizing, and citing sources.