

Preamble and Bill of Rights: 1

A: Analyze Foundational Documents

1. How does the language used in the Preamble to The Constitution appeal to the reader? Also, which rhetorical device (or devices) can be found in this section?

B: Constitutional Principles

2. How does the Preamble represent the qualities of a representational democracy (where key leaders represent the will of the citizens)?

C: Analyze Foundational Documents

3. For lines 11-16, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, what is the purpose of The Preamble to the Bill of Rights? How do the amendments listed fulfill this purpose?

D: Constitutional Principles

4. In lines 17-24, how does the language of the paragraph support the idea of “separation of powers” and “checks and balances?”

Preamble and Bill of Rights: 2

E: Analyze Foundational Texts

1. Every amendment has its own theme. Paraphrase (put into your own words) each amendment and list the theme for each (1-10).

F: Constitutional Principles

2. Reread Amendment IV and explain which branch of government (Legislative, Judicial, Executive) this amendment pertains to.

G: Analyze a Text's Purpose

3. Reread Amendment VIII and explain its purpose. What effects could an unreasonable fine or punishment have on citizens? (Hint: Think discipline vs punishment)

Preamble and Bill of Rights: 3

Performance Task

The Bill of Rights contains what the Founders considered the most basic and important protections of individual freedoms and rights. Evaluate the lasting importance of the Bill of Rights by creating a PowerPoint presentation on one amendment and how it applies to modern society.

1. Work with a small group (2-3 students total) and decide which amendment will be the topic of your presentation. Conduct research to find the most relevant information and examples to support your topic.
2. Organize your information so that your ideas will build on one another and lead to a logical conclusion. Explain the meaning of the amendment and how the law should be applied. Then give an example of how that amendment was either applied correctly or incorrectly.

*Examples: Free Speech, Gun Control, Double-Jeopardy, Illegal Searches, Cruel and Unusual Punishment, State's Rights, etc...

3. Use appropriate text and graphics to illustrate your ideas
4. I recommend using relevant news stories as examples for research purposes.