

Lesson Plan: Constitution Clips Virtual Scavenger Hunt

Description

This lesson has students use C-SPAN's Constitution Clips to explore the provisions of the U.S. Constitution. Using their own devices in class or at home, students will be introduced to the Constitution through C-SPAN video clips. This lesson has students complete an online scavenger hunt to learn more about the structure and rights included in the document. This scavenger hunt is best suited for classes with one-to-one devices or a flipped classroom format.

Procedures

- **SET UP**

This lesson offers several options for you to use with your students whether you are teaching in class, using a hybrid model, or engaging through distance learning. It can be completed in steps as a class or students can move at their own pace and complete the activities independently.

You can post links to the videos in the lesson along with the related handout and engage in discussion to share responses on a discussion board or learning management system.

You can also save and share the following Google resource for students to use with this lesson.

Handout: [Graphic Organizer](#) (Google Doc).

In Google, choose "File" then "Make a Copy" to get your own copy. You can make any needed adjustments in the instructions such as which activities students need to complete, when it is due, etc. and then make it available to them via Google.

- **WARM UP**

Pose the following brainstorming question to your students, directing them to record their responses in their graphic organizer, share with a partner, and then with the class if they choose: *What is the purpose of the Constitution and what is included in it?*

- **INTRODUCTION**

Have your students view the Introduction section of their graphic organizers. Play the following two introductory video clips that provide an introduction to the purpose of the Constitution and its structure for your students. Have the students use the **think-pair-share strategy** (Kent State University) to develop answers to the questions listed below. Discuss the purpose of the Constitution, the principles contained in it, and its structure as a class.

- Clip #1: **Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) on Constitution Day** (1:51)

- What is the purpose of the Constitution?
- What are the principles that Senator Hatch mentions when describing the Constitution?

- Clip #2: **The Structure of the Constitution** (2:46)

- How does the Constitution begin?
- How does the structure of the Constitution address the three branches of government?
- Other than the branches, what other topics do the articles of the Constitution include?
- What is the Bill of Rights, and how is it different from the other amendments?
- What is the difference between an article, a section, and a clause?

- **EXPLORATION**

As an introduction to the Constitution, students will explore and answer questions using the Exploration section of their graphic organizers.

Instruct your students to use **C-SPAN's Constitution Clips webpage** to answer the questions listed below. Using the chart in their handouts, students will locate the article, section, clause, or amendment that relates to the question and click on the link to watch the videos. Direct your students to answer the questions listed in their handouts and

also provide examples relating to the videos and list keywords associated with the video clips and answers.

*Depending on time constraints, this activity can be adjusted to reduce the number of questions or broken up into a **jigsaw-style activity**.*

- **Article I**

- What are the purposes of government that are mentioned in the Preamble?
- Who has legislative power at the national level?
- How often are members of the House of Representatives elected?
- How often does apportionment of the House of Representative occur?
- What is the House of Representatives' role in impeachment?
- How many Senators does each state get?
- What role does the Vice President play in the Senate?
- What is the Senate's role in all impeachments?
- Who decides how and when elections take place?
- How are the rules for each chamber of Congress decided?
- In which chamber of Congress do revenue bills have to originate?
- Who must sign a bill for it to become a law?
- What is the process for overriding a Presidential veto of a bill?
- What power does the Congress have regarding taxes?
- What military and war powers does the Congress have?
- What is meant by Congress's power to "make all laws which shall be necessary and proper?"
- What restrictions of Congress are included in Article 1, Section 9 of the Constitution?

- **Article II**

- What power is "vested in a president?"
- Explain the process for electing a President?
- What is the president's role in the military?
- Explain the president's power to pardon.
- Who can the president appoint with the advice and consent of the Senate?
- What is the address called that the president gives to Congress?
- Explain what a president can be impeached for.

- **Article III**

- Where is the judicial power of the United States vested in?
- What are the two types of jurisdiction mentioned in the Constitution?

- **Article IV**

- How does the Full Faith and Credit clause relate to the states?

- **Article V**

- How can changes be made to the Constitution?

- **Article VI**

- What is meant by the Constitution and laws of the United States being the "supreme law of the land?"

- **Article VII**

- What is the purpose of Article VII?

- **Amendments**

- What are the five parts of the 1st Amendment?
- What is meant by "the right of the people to keep and bear arms?"
- What protections do individuals have against unreasonable searches and seizures?
- What rights listed in the 5th Amendment do people have when accused of crimes?
- How is your right to a fair trial protected in the Bill of Rights?
- How does the Constitution address punishments for crimes?
- What rights are included in the 9th and 10th amendments?
- How did the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments address the concept of equal rights for all?
- What part of the Constitution created the way that Senators are currently elected?
- How did the 19th Amendment address the concept of equal rights?
- How are the 18th and 21st amendment connected?
- What were the events surrounding the 22nd Amendment?
- How was the youth vote expanded in the Constitution?
- What was the most recent change to the Constitution?

- **APPLICATION**

Review the answers from the handout with the class to correct any misconceptions.

After your students are finished filling in the chart from the Exploration activity in their graphic organizers, direct them to complete the final culminating writing prompt and have them share their responses with the class: **In what ways does the Constitution reflect the following principles of U.S. government: Separation of Powers, Rule of**

Law, Federalism, Individual Rights and Liberties, Limited Government and Consent of the Government. Be sure to include evidence from the Constitution Clips you watched in the lesson to support your argument.

- **CLOSURE**

End the class with a discussion on why the Constitution is important to the functioning of government.

- **EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:**

Create Your Own Constitution Scavenger Hunt: Use the [C-SPAN Classroom Constitution Clips](#) website to create additional questions that relate to the Constitution. Share these questions with your classmates to see how they do.

Make Your Own Constitution Clip: Choose a provision of the Constitution and create your Constitution Clip. Use the [C-SPAN Video Library](#) to find and clip videos that represent that provision in action. A guide for clipping C-SPAN videos can be found [here](#) (Google Doc).

Constitutional Amendment: Based on what you learned about the structure of the Constitution, propose a new amendment to the Constitution. Describe what it would do and why you think it would benefit the United States.

- **ADDITIONAL PROMPTS**

- Why was the amendment process added to the Constitution?
- How have individual rights been expanded as the Constitution has been amended?
- Why do you think the largest section of the Constitution relates to the legislative branch?
- Which part of the Constitution do you think has the most impact on your life? Explain your answer.