



Scholar Exchange: Article V – Amendment Process

Advanced Level Class Outline and Worksheet

INTERACTIVE CONSTITUTION RESOURCES

- [Resources for Article V](#)

OVERVIEW

Part I. Article V: How does it work?

Part II. Founding Debates and the Constitutional Convention

Part III. Constitutional Amendments Over Time

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Why did the Founding generation include a formal process for amending the Constitution?
- How does the Constitution’s amendment process work, and why did the Founders make it so hard to amend the Constitution?
- What’s the relationship between the Constitution’s Article V amendment process and key foundational principles like popular sovereignty and the rule of law?
- What key changes have the American people made to the Constitution over time and what does that tell us about the key constitutional issues in American history?

PART I. ARTICLE V: HOW DOES IT WORK?

Why did the Framers intentionally make the amendment process difficult?	
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Step One: Proposal

What role can <u>Congress</u> play in this step of the amendment process?	
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What role can <u>the states</u> play in this step of the amendment process?	
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Step Two: Ratification

What role does <u>Congress</u> play in this step of the amendment process?	
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What role do <u>the states</u> play in this step of the amendment process?	
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PART II. THE FOUNDING STORY OF ARTICLE V: THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

How did the following impact the development of Article V at the Constitutional Convention?

Articles of Confederation	
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Enlightenment Thought	
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How did the Framers limit the power of Congress in Article V?

Step One: Proposal	
Step Two: Ratification	

How did the Framers limit the power of the amendment process?

PART III. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS OVER TIME

Pick one of the stories shared about amendments throughout history.	
Who was involved in the amendment process?	
What was the issue at the center of the amendment?	
What made this amendment unique in its proposal and/or ratification?	