



Scholar Exchange: Second Amendment

Advanced Level Class Outline and Worksheet

INTERACTIVE CONSTITUTION RESOURCES

- [Resources for the Second Amendment](#)

OVERVIEW

Part I. Opening Question and Introduction to the Text

Part II. Founding Era

Part III. Civil War and Reconstruction Era

Part IV. Modern Supreme Court Cases and Hypothetical Question

BIG QUESTION

- Why did the Founding generation enshrine the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights?
- What was the Founding-era vision of the Second Amendment, and how did America's "Second Founding"—and the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment after the Civil War—shape the Second Amendment's meaning?
- How has the Supreme Court interpreted the Second Amendment over time?
- Today, when can the government limit the individual right to possess guns and other firearms—and when can't it?
- What are areas of constitutional debate over the Second Amendment today?

Part One: Opening Question and Introduction to the Text

What is the big idea of the <u>first part</u> of this Amendment, relating to Militia and State?
What is the big idea of the <u>second part</u> of this Amendment, relating to the “right of the people”?

Part Two: Founding Era Stories

What were two Founding-era concerns that the Framers had in mind during the Constitutional Convention? Why were these concerns for the Framers?

Concern One	Why was it a concern?
Concern Two	Why was it a concern?

Part Three: Civil War and Reconstruction Era Founding

What were some ways that the Civil War and Reconstruction transformed debates over the Second Amendment?

Part Four: Modern Supreme Court Cases

Complete the chart with information about two modern Second Amendment cases.

Court Case	What was the question?	How did the Court rule?
<i>District of Columbia v. Heller</i> (2008)		
<i>McDonald v. City of Chicago</i> (2010)		

Notes and Questions: