

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 15: The Constitution as Amended:

Article V and a Walking Tour of America's 27 Constitutional Amendments

15.4 Activity Guide

CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

Now that you have learned about the mechanics of the Article V amendment process and about how reformers have used this process to change the Constitution, you will now get the opportunity to experience the process of pushing for a new amendment.

Draft a proposed amendment to the Constitution.
Think of a right or freedom that you think needs to be protected, or a function of the Constitution that needs to be revised, or a new power (or limit on power) that should be written into the Constitution—historically, these are the types of amendments that have been ratified.

Categories of Change

Many previous constitutional amendments made it through the ratification process because one or more of the following factors applied.
Explain how your proposed amendment could connect to the following categories.

Historical events	
Social movements	
Critics of the Constitution	
Controversial Supreme Court Decisions	

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Lessons learned over time	
Other themes	

Article V sets out several paths for amending the Constitution.
Which path will you prioritize, and why?

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Building a Coalition

You will need broad national support to help get your amendment ratified.
List sponsors (possible groups, organizations, constituencies, political leaders,
opinion leaders, movement leaders, broader movements, etc.)
that will help advocate for your amendment.

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Now it's time to develop your pitch. Answer the following questions to help build your persuasive argument in favor of your amendment.

The Why

The opening story: Why is the amendment needed?
What issue/problem are you addressing? Why push for this reform through a constitutional amendment rather than a different form of action?

The What

Your solution: What does your amendment do, and how does your amendment address the issue that you first identified?



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The Ask

What are you asking for other people, groups, etc., to do?

This could be different depending on who you are targeting. Do you need them to contribute money, volunteer, call their congresspeople, or vote for something themselves?

