**Scholar Exchange: Second Amendment**

**Introductory Level
Class Outline and Worksheet**

**INTERACTIVE CONSTITUTION RESOURCES**

* [Resources for the Second Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/big-question/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 first part of this Amendment, relating to Militia and State?** |
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|  **What is the big idea of the second part of this Amendment, relating to the “right of the people”?** |
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**Part Two: Founding Era Stories**

| **What was one Founding-era concern that the Framers had in mind during the Constitutional Convention?** |
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| **Why was this a concern for the Framers?** |
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**Part Three: Civil War and Reconstruction Era Founding**

| **What were some ways that the Civil War and Reconstruction transformed debates over the Second Amendment?** |
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**Part Four: Modern Supreme Court Cases**

**Complete the chart with information about one of the modern Second Amendment cases. *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) and *McDonald v. City of Chicago* (2010)**

| **Court Case** | **What was the question?** | **How did the Court rule?** |
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**Notes and Questions:**