

Analyzing and Applying the Bill of Rights  
Primary Source Activity  
Middle School

This lesson can be used as an extension to Episode 3: Liberty for All or independently from it.

The learner will analyze the Bill of Rights and apply it to today

National Social Studies Standards

3B The student understands the guarantees of the Bill of Rights and its continuing significance.

- Analyze the significance of the Bill of Rights and its specific guarantees.

Common Core State Standards

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- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2- Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social science.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.8- Assess the extent to which the reasoning and evidence in a text support the author's claims.

Activity: In *Inventing America*, the characters cited 7 of the 10 amendments in the Bill of Rights. The students should read these amendments and rewrite them in their own words. Then, students should give an example of where they see this amendment applied in our nation today.

Guiding Question: Which of these amendments do you think is the most important? Why?

# Analyzing and Applying the Bill of Rights

In Inventing America, the characters cited 7 of the 10 amendments in the Bill of Rights. Read these amendments and rewrite them in your own words. Then, give an example of where you see this amendment applied in your life or in our nation today.

Amendment	Your Own Words	Example
1. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people to peacefully assemble."		
2. "A well-regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."		
3. "No Soldier shall, in times of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner."		
4. "The right of the people to be secure...against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated."		

5. "No person shall be...compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself."		
8. "Excessive bail shall not be required... nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."		
10. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, or prohibited to it by the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."		

Which of these do you think is the most important amendment today? Why?

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