

GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans

Area/Skill - Social Studies	Cognitive Skill Level - Application/Analysis	Correlation to Framework - 02.07, 02.08	Lesson Number - 34
<p>Activity Title - The Bill of Rights Is in the News!</p> <p>Goal/Objective</p> <p>To determine the currency of the Bill of Rights by locating current newspaper articles or editorials that support or refute each of the 1st Ten Amendments.</p> <p>Lesson Outline Introduction</p> <p>Discuss that although the 1st Ten Amendments to the Constitution of the United States were written well over two hundred years ago, they continue to be relevant in today's world.</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Provide the class with copies of the "Handout - The Bill of Rights Is in the News!". This handout also contains a synopsis of each of the 1st Ten Amendments. Divide the class into groups of four or five students. Give each group a newspaper. <i>USA Today</i> is a good choice if the local newspaper is not a comprehensive one. Inform students that their task is to locate articles, editorials, or editorial cartoons that discuss each of the amendments. Give students enough time to research each of the amendments. When they are done, have each group report on the type of article, editorial, or cartoon that they found for each of the amendments.</p> <p>Because not all newspapers will contain articles regarding each of the amendments, discuss why certain items were not found.</p> <p>Debriefing/Evaluation Activity</p> <p>Debrief the activity by reviewing how each of the amendments continues to be important in the foundation of freedoms that Americans enjoy.</p>			<p>Materials/Texts/Realia/Handouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of Handout - The Bill of Rights Is in the News! • Chart paper/board and markers • Newspapers
			<p>Extension Activity</p> <p>Have students select one of the 1st Ten Amendments. Provide students with Internet access. Have them search the World Wide Web for additional examples of how this amendment continues to impact the American public. Have the students report their findings to the class.</p>
			<p>ESE/ESOL Accommodations</p> <p>Provide students with a synopsis of the basic rights or freedoms contained in each of the first ten amendments.</p> <p>Have students state in their own words the meaning of each of the first ten amendments.</p> <p>Have students work in small groups or shorten the assignment to only the first five amendments.</p>
<p>Real-Life Connection</p> <p>Have students identify real-life examples of how each of the amendments impact their own lives at work, at home, and in the community. Write the students' ideas on the board beside the appropriate amendment.</p>			

GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans - Script

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Activity Title - The Bill of Rights Is in the News!

Introduction

Say: The 1st Ten Amendments to the Constitution of the United States were written well over two hundred years ago. Yet, they continue to be a powerful force in determining the freedoms that we often take for granted. Let's briefly review each of the 1st Ten Amendments and the basic rights that they outline.

Briefly review the different freedoms or rights contained in the document. You may wish to handout copies of the Bill of Rights or the "**Handout - The Bill of Rights Is in the News!**".

Main Activity

Say: Today you are going to see whether each of these amendments continues to be important in today's world. Divide into groups of four or five. Each of you will have a newspaper and the "**Handout - The Bill of Rights Is in the News!**". See if you can find an article or editorial that supports each of the amendments. Write in the basic information about the article on your worksheet and be ready to discuss how the article is related to the specific amendment.

Provide the students with adequate time to review the newspaper and locate appropriate articles, editorials, editorial cartoons, or even advertisements. When the students have completed the assignment, have them share their findings with the class.

Ask: Were there any amendments that you could not find something in the newspaper? Why do you think that was? What type of real-life story would be an example of this amendment.

If a comprehensive newspaper, such as *USA Today*, is used, most amendments will be covered by some type of article.

Closure/Conclusion

Ask: Were you surprised at how many articles you were able to locate on these amendments which were written so long ago? Why or why not? *Say:* These important amendments have not stayed static over the years. They have continued to change, depending on the needs of the American public. Discuss how many different court cases base their decisions on the specific freedoms outlined in the Bill of Rights.

Follow-Up Lessons/Activities

Have students identify a specific amendment. Using newspapers and an Internet search, have the students research the different freedoms outlined in the amendment and how current events and court cases are using the specific rights outlined by the amendment. Have the students share their findings with the class.

**GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans
Social Studies Lesson 34 Handout**

Bill of Rights

The First 10 Amendments to the Constitution as Ratified by the States

Amendment 1

Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, right to assemble peaceably, right to petition the Government

Amendment 2

Right to bear arms

Amendment 3

No soldier shall during peace time be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner

Amendment 4

Right to be secure in their homes, against unreasonable searches and seizure without probable cause

Amendment 5

No citizen shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor any property taken for public use without just compensation

Amendment 6

Right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury and assistance of counsel for his defense

Amendment 7

In common law suits, a citizen has the right to a trial by jury based on the rules of common law

Amendment 8

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fine, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted

Amendment 9

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people

Amendment 10

The powers not delegated to the U.S. by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States or to the people

The Bill of Rights Is in the News!

Complete the following with news stories that describe current or past events related to the appropriate Amendment. Example: The news highlight re: the Internet and censorship relates to Amendment 1 – Freedom of Speech.

Amendment 1	
Amendment 2	
Amendment 3	
Amendment 4	
Amendment 5	
Amendment 6	
Amendment 7	
Amendment 8	
Amendment 9	
Amendment 10	