



LAW DAY  
2022 –  
“The  
Constitution  
in Times of  
Change”

GRADES 6 TO 8

ART, ESSAY AND POETRY  
CONTEST ENTRIES

# HELP TO JUDGE LAW DAY 2022 ENTRIES

If you are interested in scoring Law Day 2022 entries, please open the “Ballot Survey Form” attached to the email containing this Law Day PowerPoint slideshow.

In each category, please score each entry on a scale of 1 to 10. A score of 10 would be the highest score possible. A score of 1 would be the lowest score possible. Scores will be averaged for each entry.

Ballot survey forms must be received by midnight on April 28, 2022.

All scores will be averaged. The top three winners in each category will receive prizes and be recognized.

This contest is sponsored by the Monmouth Bar Association, the NJ State Bar Foundation and the IOLTA Fund.

# Middle School Poetry Contest (Grades 6-8)

## PROMPT:

Woodrow Wilson once said, “The Constitution of the United States is not a mere lawyer’s document; it is a vehicle of life and in its spirit is always the spirit of the age.”

The ode is a poetic form formed for flattery. Odes address intense emotions or celebrate an object or image. Research types of odes and write an “Ode to More Perfect Union” celebrating the United States’ Constitution, its ability to expand and change, and the spirit of the present day.

# Entry #1 – Page 1

## Ode to the Constitution

Oh constitution, oh constitution,  
You are the spirit of our nation, our moral protector in a way.  
If you were a person, you'd fight for us without hesitation, making sure we lived to see another day.

Oh constitution, oh constitution,  
You are crinkled and centuries-old, yet here you are, still going strong.  
Your paper is a goldish-brown, filled with ink in the styles of writing long gone.

Oh constitution, oh constitution,  
If you were picked up you would crinkle and crackle, yet even though you are so old, you are still strong, brave, and bold.

Oh constitution, oh constitution,  
Around you are people of all kinds and backgrounds, chattering and praising how you set the nation's bonds.

Oh constitution, oh constitution,  
When I think of you, I feel glad, thankful, and safe. If you were a person, we would all celebrate and not hesitate!

Oh constitution, oh constitution,  
When I first learned of you, we were taught that you were the basis of our nation, the center of order, and helped decide which laws passed and which didn't.  
We were taught that you should be revered and respected, as it was you who kept this nation afloat when other documents couldn't.

# Entry #1 – Page 2

Oh constitution, oh constitution,  
If you didn't exist, my life would be one consumed by fear.  
My life's setting might not even be here!

Oh constitution, oh constitution,  
Without you, we would still be on the Articles of Confederation.  
We would be a disunited, less-safer, less-prosperous nation.

Oh constitution, oh constitution,  
While all of this is true, there is still something more to celebrate in you.  
Your ability to change and adapt was unthinkable for its time, that is true.

Oh constitution, oh constitution,  
Throughout the centuries, throughout the ages, more and more things have been added to your pages.  
You are who we look back on for not only reflection but for creating laws, judging acts, and understanding our nation's various complexions.  
Throughout times of change and times of worry, you still stand strong and tall, helping us wisely think, stay calm, and not panic in a hurry.  
You have been with us from 1788 to 2022, and that won't be changing any time soon.  
In an era of increasing division and chaos, you are the beacon of light that holds us together and helps us stay strong.  
All in all, you are so much more than a piece of paper. You are the base of our way of life, you help decide so many things in law, you show us that democracy can adapt to the changing times and keep its values, and you are the core of our society. And for that, we are eternally grateful.

# Middle School Essay Contest (Grades 6-8)

## PROMPT:

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black when discussing the U.S. Constitution said, “This great document is the unique American contribution to man’s continuing search for a society in which individual liberty is secure against governmental oppression.”

Write an essay that describes the individual liberty(ies) that you feel are most in need of protection from governmental oppression. Discuss how the Constitution protects those liberties.

# Entry # 1 —

The rights reserved to states or people, or the 10th amendment, is the individual liberty that I feel is in most need of protection. The 10th amendment is very important and is the individual liberty that needs the most protection because it makes sure the government doesn't have too much power, so the things that are happening in Russia and North Korea don't happen here. If the government takes away this amendment and makes it so they have all the power, they will be able to take away our other rights like freedom of speech. If the government takes away our freedom of speech you cannot express yourself. For example, you cannot wear, post, or talk about what you want. You also cannot practice religion, or protest for what you think is right. In conclusion, the 10th amendment is very important and is the individual liberty that needs the most protection because it makes sure the government doesn't have too much power and overrules the people.

## Entry #2-

There are many important rights that people don't want to get taken away but there is one really important right which is freedom of speech. This right is so important to many people in this world. Everyone should have the right to speak for themselves and no one should not be able to speak. Freedom of speech was a huge problem for so long but when the 1st amendment came around that changed and became a huge right to many people in this world. For example, people in Russia and Ukraine can't even talk about this whole war and don't have the freedom to speak about the war or they will get arrested. It's not fair that these people can't have the freedom of speech. Lastly, this right is SO important to many people and it would be a shame for people not to have the freedom to speak.

Another really important right in this world is the right to vote. Many people in this world don't want to lose the right to vote. There are some countries that just pick a leader without anyone even being able to vote and it's not fair. Also, it's not right because there shouldn't just be a leader chosen when no one even had the right to vote. For example, North Korea can't even vote and it's not fair to them that they can't vote for the leader they want. Everyone should get the right to vote. Lastly, everyone should have the right and fairness to vote in this world.

## Entry #3-

Rights are very important in our society today. Some rights that are applied today that I wouldn't want to get taken away are Freedom of Speech, the right to equal treatment, and Freedom of expression. Therefore, without these rights, we wouldn't be able to give a say in what we think is right, all different races, religions, and skin colors would be treated differently, and people who want to express themselves in the way that they dress would get their rights taken away by dress code. A life without these rights would make our world an unfair, unequal place. Moreover, more rights that are approved throughout the United States are the right to freedom from torture and inhumane treatment. Furthermore, this means that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. This right is being taken away in Ukraine today. Russia has come to their land and started punishing them by bombing and hurting poor innocent people. As they have tried to escape, Russia has blocked them off and not let them leave. The people of Ukraine are suffering when they have not done anything. In conclusion, humans of our world should have rights that should not be taken away.

# Entry #4-

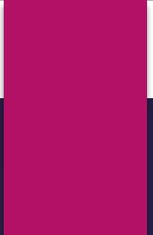
Our rights affect us every day and the people around us, both negatively and positively. Without most of the rights granted daily, we would all have many struggles throughout our lives. The main right I have that I don't want to be taken away by the government is the First Amendment. Without the First Amendment we would lose many of our privileges I. Including freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press.

Freedom of religion is the first freedom we receive along with the First Amendment. This grants us the ability to choose who we want to be, letting us choose what religion we decide to follow or worship. We can follow any traditions, and express our religion through our clothing. We are allowed to do this without any aggressive actions from other citizens. This freedom is very important to me because without this, we wouldn't have the chance to follow our own path and everyone wouldn't have the opportunity to be their own person.

The final right that is essential to our lives is the freedom of speech. This right is the most important part of the First Amendment because this right gives us the chance to speak our rights and opinions. Without this we would be excluded from speaking our ideas publicly and would be cut off from speaking badly towards people considered "higher" than us financially or politically.

The Constitution was created after the colonists declared their independence from Great Britain which led to the Revolutionary War. Governmental oppression by the British before the war played a big role in how the first ten amendments of the U.S Constitution came to be. The amendments provide protection of the rights of the citizens that the government needs to abide by and protect. For this reason, the first ten amendments, also known as the Bill of Rights, should be protected because they are important and helped shape America for what it is today.

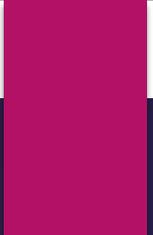
The first amendment that I think is most in need of protection from governmental oppression is the third amendment. The third amendment protects citizens by not allowing the government to force citizens to give up their homes for soldiers. It was important to American colonists as it was a response to the Quartering Acts made by the British during the American Revolution. The third amendment may not be as important in the present day, but will surely be significant if a war were to ever happen in the United States. The second amendment I think is in need of protection from governmental oppression is the first amendment. The first amendment protects freedom of speech, religion, the press, and the right to assemble. It was important to American colonists because governmental oppression from Great Britain and religious persecution from the church were major reasons why many people went to America. The first amendment most certainly is vital in today's society. In a country with diverse people with different religions and ways of thinking, the first amendment is critical to protect. The final amendment I think is in need of protection from governmental oppression is the fourth amendment. The fourth amendment protects people from being searched without reason or just cause by the government. It was important to American colonists because what brought about the fourth amendment was the British actions before the Revolution where colonists' were being



# Entry #5- Page 1

forced to have their belongings inspected for illegal goods by British soldiers. The fourth amendment is still used in the present day as it keeps the government from doing a search of a person or their property without just cause.

While the ten amendments all are important and in need of protection from governmental oppression, Amendments I, III, and IV are very crucial because they were based on the past, still followed currently, and most certainly will continue to be followed in the future to protect the rights and freedoms of the people of the United States. Thus, Amendments I, III, and IV are the most in need of protection from governmental oppression because they allow Americans to live without the fear of expressing themselves, or being searched unfairly, or giving up their homes. As it is stated in the Constitution, the rights of all Americans should always be protected and the government is there to protect those rights and liberties.



# Entry #5 – Page 2

When it comes to our liberties and rights, we need to be able to protect them thoroughly. In the United States Constitution, basic human rights are touched upon through the inclusion of the Bill of Rights to ensure their protection. Each liberty should be treated with the utmost protection from governmental oppression. Without these liberties, our rights wouldn't be surely in place.

A liberty that I believe requires protection from governmental oppression is the ability to speak freely. This right was included in the First Amendment. People should be able to speak their minds without facing any backlash for their opinions. Whether that be the clothes they wear, the religion they choose to follow, or their ability to protest. Without this liberty, we wouldn't be able to express our originality, there wouldn't be different opinions and interests to explore.

Another liberty that needs protection as well is the right to prohibit searches without a warrant. "The Constitution, through the Fourth Amendment, protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government." Poking holes in people's private property is unconstitutional, no one should feel like their privacy is being invaded. It is uncalled for to invade someone's belongings without a warrant. The secure-ness of this right is essential to keep balance between invasion and privacy.

These liberties should be protected because they ensure the safety of a person's rights. If these liberties were non-existent, we wouldn't have guaranteed safety when it comes to the government. They protect us from infringement of our voice, beliefs, and most importantly rights.

# Entry #6

### The First Amendment

Although there are many important amendments to the constitution, one in particular sticks out to me. The First Amendment gives Americans the right to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom to petition the government. It also gives Americans the right to practice their chosen religion.

One reason this amendment is important is that it gives Americans the freedom to share their opinions. Without this amendment, we would have limited vocabulary and our true opinions would have to be kept to ourselves. Expressing our opinions and thoughts is just one reason why America is as strong as it is today.

Second, the first amendment not only gives Americans the right to speak freely, but it also gives them the right to write freely. Without this amendment, Americans would not be able to write how they choose. Authors we know and love could not write and publish the books and poems we know today.

Next, the First Amendment gives us the right to practice our chosen religions. Choosing to practice your own religion is of great importance. It is important because it allows people to express themselves completely and feel comfortable and safe. If American citizens could not choose their own religion, some would be unhappy and uncomfortable.

Lastly, the First Amendment allows Americans to assemble to petition the government. This gives citizens the freedom to politically have a say in their government. Politically having a say something Americans take great pride in.

To conclude, the First Amendment is remarkably important for expressing ourselves. As you can see the First Amendment plays a big role in how Americans are so collaborative today. It has helped shape our country into the America we now know today.

Entry  
#7

## The 19th Amendment: Women's Right to Vote

The 19th Amendment is “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the US or by any state on account of sex.” As citizens, all of our voices should be heard in life and in voting. Why should gender matter? Men were handed the right to vote but women had to fight for it. This thought process does not make sense. Women and men are created equal as it is written in our constitution, they should both have the same opportunities. Women have the intelligence and mindset to vote but most of all a voice that should be heard.

If someone is a citizen and of age, their gender is irrelevant in regards to voting. They are part of this country, the United States of America, our country is a democracy. Since we are a democracy all voices should be heard regardless of race, religion, or gender. Votes are an outlet for expressing thoughts and opinions so all people should be able to voice those thoughts and opinions. Votes are a privilege that all citizens will gain and this is important.

The 19th Amendment is valuable and a great privilege to all. It took many years for women to achieve this milestone. They worked through it with peaceful protests and silent walks. Eventually, in August, 1920, victory was theirs. Suffragists paved the way for women who make up more than 50% of the United States population.

I am an American female and am inspired by the works of Women Suffragists who gained women the right to vote. In this way, I would like this amendment to be maintained for all women in America.

Entry  
#8

### The Significance of the 4th Amendment

The most important Amendment is the 4th, which “ Protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures by public officials”. The 4th amendment blocks public officials such as Mayors, Governors, Judges, the President, the Vice President, City Councils, County Commissions, and many more. This amendment protects individuals from having their items or “evidence” seized illegally from public officials. This amendment also determines whether “someone’s privacy is diminished by a governmental search or seizure.” Which basically means whether an individual's privacy should or should not be diminished by searches and seizures.

Although, the 4th amendment ONLY protects a citizen's right to privacy if the citizen has not shown signs of illegal activities. What they mean by that is that the amendment will only apply to the individual that has not done anything illegal or put any other citizens into danger, but if someone is suspected a public official still needs evidence which will later then supply them with a warrant. Which means that the police cannot search your personal belongings without some sort of evidence or probable cause. A warrant is signed by someone of authority and it is used to detain an individual. However, there are some situations where a warrant is not needed. Some examples would be in an emergency situation that harms public safety.

When conducting a search connected to a lawful arrest, and many other reasons. I believe that the 4th amendment should be protected. If this amendment is not protected then what is the point of freedom. This amendment grants us the right to be protected in our person and home and we should not be stripped of that. I believe we should protect this amendment and only question the guilty.

Entry  
#9

### Our Voices Protected

The First Constitutional Liberty is the most important. It is the foundation for all of the amendments. The First Amendment secures the freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the press. This amendment is what makes America great. Knowing that my voice can be heard and not put against me is one of the greatest gifts to us United citizens.

The First Amendment has protected the people of the United States for many years. From the early 1900s and late 1800s, freedom of the press has helped expose corruption throughout all branches of government and without it, our nation would be more corrupt than it is. The right to freedom of speech is the greatest right there is. Without this, we could not peacefully protest, and people like Malcolm X or Dr. Martin Luther King would not have been able to do what they did without it.

The First Amendment makes sure our nation is free. The First Amendment allows people to practice any religion they truly desire. It allows people to express how they feel without punishment. Usually, countries that are communistic and try to control what people say, do, and think end up in ruins from being overthrown by the people who think it is unfair or unjust. To protect The First Amendment we shall fight and use our rights when needed and not let anyone try to take them from us. The First Amendment is what makes our country what it is and because of it, we are the greatest country.

# Entry #10

## The First Amendment

The first amendment, "Free Speech", is extremely important because it allows you to say whatever you believe in and you can practice whatever religion you feel compelled too. If you live in the United States and are a legal citizen, you should have the right to say what you believe in. Another part of the first amendment is "Freedom of Religion". Religion is very important for many people in the United States. Many people left England years ago, to come to the United States because they wanted to practice their own religion and not be told what to believe in.

If we did not have freedom of speech, religion, and press our country would be in bad shape. Americans would have no choices and we would become a communist country. People could be jailed, or worse, just because of their beliefs and words. That is absurd. The first amendment should be fiercely protected for all Americans.

Entry # 1 1

## The Right To Bear Arms

The Second Amendment was part of the Bill of Rights that was added to the Constitution on December 15, 1791. It protects the rights of citizens to “bear arms” or own weapons, such as guns. When the Second Amendment was ratified in 1791, it was meant for self defense. To allow citizens with the ability to defend themselves against unlawful violence or unlawful control by the government.

The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution as protection for those fearful of a strong national government. Meaning that it was an amendment used for protection. Protecting the second amendment is very important because owning a gun or “bearing arms” is something to protect ourselves, our family, and feel safe. Owning a gun can mean a lot of things, you could feel power or that you have the right to shoot someone whenever you want. But there is always an infringement for every law and amendment.

The right to keep and bear arms is a well regulated Militia, being obligatory to the security of a free State. English history suggested that this risk could be controlled by permitting the government to raise armies (consisting of full-time paid troops) only when needed to fight foreign adversaries. For other purposes, such as responding to sudden invasions or other emergencies, the government could rely on a militia that consisted of ordinary civilians who supplied their own weapons and received some part-time, unpaid military training. The right to “bear arms” should be protected at all cost.

Entry #12

### Women's Rights

Women deserve the right to vote. This right is important for them because they are citizens. Women should have a say in who runs their country. Suffragists worked extremely hard for these rights. According to the Fourteenth Amendment everyone is equal and should be treated accordingly. People shouldn't treat other people poorly because of their gender.

Women have helped make our country the way it is. They were and are constantly underestimated. Without them we would not have some of our greatest and most important inventions. One example is Maria E. Beasley, she created the first life raft. This is just one of the amazing inventions women have made.

Women helped a lot on the sidelines of war. They were some of the most helpful people in war time. They cared for and aided wounded soldiers. This was extremely dangerous for them but they were brave and did it anyway.

They were and are very good caretakers and workers. Although all they used to do was stay home, take care of the children, clean the house, prepare meals, and much more, they can play both roles. This means that they can be caretakers of families or be the main source of income. In some cases they are both. I am mentioning all these reasons because they explain all that women have done for this country and our society.

In conclusion, Women deserve the right to vote because of the fourteenth amendment. They played a huge part in the history and forming of our country. They invented some of the most important and most used inventions of all time. They are wonderful caretakers and workers. They are amazing and dedicated to everything they do.

Entry #13

### Protection of the Second Amendment

The right to bear arms is one of the most important amendments and liberties granted to us by the constitution. It is important to us because it grants us the right to safety and security. A gun can be used as an item for self-defense. This right should be protected because it saves millions of lives every year. Even though my family does not own a firearm, I am still thankful for the second amendment. I feel that in places like Ukraine or Brazil, the people there should also have the right to bear arms and protect themselves.

The second amendment was ratified on December 15, 1791. The right to bear arms generally refers to a person's right to possess weapons. Over the years, the Supreme Court has visualized the right to bear arms as a self-defense right, making it difficult for Congress to control guns. An example of this being shown is the 2008 case *District of Columbia v. Heller*. In that case, the Supreme Court stated that the second Amendment protects the individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for lawful purposes.

The right to bear arms should be protected because it saves lives. When used in the right way, guns can be the difference between life and death. The Second Amendment should be protected at all costs because it's an important part in the security of an American citizen. Although it was ratified to help with battles during the Revolutionary War, today it is an important part of our lives.

Entry #14

### Sixth Amendment

During the last 2 years, media outlets have reported stories about sensational crimes that happened here in the United States and other parts of the world. Public opinion already found those suspects guilty of the crime even before they had their time in court. What is the Sixth Amendment? Have you heard of the phrase "presumed innocent until proven guilty"? How is this related to the Sixth Amendment?

The Sixth Amendment guarantees the rights of criminal defendants. It includes the rights to a public trial without unwanted delay, right to a lawyer, impartial jury, to know who your accusers are, and the nature of the charges and evidence against you. In words that are easier to understand, it provides a number of rights when people have been accused of a crime. This amendment provides an opportunity for the accused to prove whether they are guilty or not. Every individual accused of crime will have their time in court to prove their innocence. They will have their time to question the validity and accuracy of the evidence presented against them. It is often during this process that the accused needs to establish some doubts in order for them to avoid convictions. It established the rights of the accused to have a lawyer that will defend them whether they have the monetary means or not.

The process of getting justice can be a very tedious one. The founders of our Constitution made sure that everyone gets their rights covered. Our constitution ensured that every individual's rights are protected even those who have been accused of committing crime. Our Constitution guarantees that justice will be served and that criminal convictions will be served to those who actually deserve it.

Entry  
#15

### Nineteenth Amendment

The Nineteenth Amendment is the establishment of women's rights and equality. The Nineteenth Amendment states that citizens have the right to vote and cannot be denied on the account of sex. This right is important because if women couldn't vote, there wouldn't be any equality and extremely unfair to women just on the basis of sex. Taking away the right to vote is taking away a basic right.

The Nineteenth Amendment is one of the most important amendments. Without this amendment, equality would be irrelevant. If Congress decided to repeal this amendment they would be taking away a basic right for a woman's role in representative democracy in the United States. Women being granted the right to vote was a milestone and a long time coming and women, for decades were protesting women's suffrage. Women were penalized for protesting and using their voices to try and gain the right to vote. On August 26, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified and women were allowed to vote, this amendment changed the face of voting forever. Women had finally won a long battle, but women didn't just stop there. Today, millions of women are still protesting for women's equality, but this amendment helped women get much closer to their goal of equality.

Undoubtedly, the right to vote is extremely important for women's rights and equality in the United States. Women for decades were denied the right to vote, when the Nineteenth Amendment was passed that changed. I am a woman and I'm grateful for those outspoken suffragists who gained my deserved right to vote. The Nineteenth Amendment changed the face of voting and equality in the United States forever. That's why the Nineteenth Amendment should be protected.

Entry  
#16

### The First Amendment

Freedom of speech is the ability to have your own opinions and to share your own ideas without fearing retaliation. This to me is the most important amendment because I believe that you should be able to speak your mind and share your opinions without fear. Our opinions and what we have to say make each one of us unique. We all deserve respect regardless of what we say. You may not agree with everyone, but you should at least listen to what they have to say. No one should be fearful of what others say no matter their gender, race, or ethnicity.

The first amendment also includes freedom of religion which is the right to act, think, and express what you believe in. I think this is also part of the first amendment that should be protected because what you believe in shouldn't be held against you. There are over four thousand religions in the world, and each one adds diversity to our society. Religion is a big part of the culture, and for some people, it's their whole culture. What you believe in shouldn't be taken away from you.

Without the first amendment, none of us would recognize our society. Most of us would probably be too scared to speak our minds and share our ideas because our fear of retaliation would take over. Some people may even feel unsafe with having their own opinions and practicing their religion. With freedom of speech, we are able to express ourselves, solve problems, and share new ideas. Our freedom of speech and religion were given to us for a reason, and we should never give anyone the power to take those freedoms away from us.

Entry  
#17

## Protecting the First Amendment

Amendments guarantee necessary rights and civil liberties. They help protect us; they also protect our rights. Amendments are a part of our laws for a reason. Of all the amendments, the first amendment is known as the most famous and important. According to the first amendment, *'Congress can pass no law that encroaches on an American freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to assemble, and freedom to petition the government.'* This amendment deserves to be protected because it gives us the right as citizens to practice our own religion and have our own opinions. I will be standing by this amendment because it guarantees freedom in interacting with our rights. It outlaws congress from promoting one religion over others. It also helps citizens to practice their religion, speak out, have a free press, and assemble and petition peacefully.

Can you imagine what life would be like without the first amendment? If we were not allowed to speak our own beliefs? People would be putting each other down because of their religion. No one can force you to switch your religion just because they don't believe in that religion, this is why freedom of speech is needed. The first amendment helps protect our right to express our strongest and deepest beliefs in actions and in words. The most important part of the first amendment is *'Freedom to petition the government,'* because, without it, we citizens would not be allowed to question the laws of the government. We wouldn't be allowed to request that unfair laws should be ended.

The first amendment deserves to be protected. They help protect us in many different ways. Without it, even some of the simplest things would be restricted.

*'The First Amendment serves not only the needs of the polity but also those of the human spirit- a spirit that demands self- expression'*

- Thurgood Marshall

Entry  
#18 –

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Everyone has Civil Liberties or Constitutional Rights. "They are the basic rights and freedoms guaranteed to us individuals as protection from any arbitrary actions or other interferences of the government without due process of law." These were given to us to show our freedoms and the basic wrongs not to commit. My favorite amendment is freedom of speech. I find this amendment very important. It protects people's rights to have an opinion and say that opinion out loudly for everyone to hear. That also means that they have to respect others as well.

The first amendment, freedom of speech, was adopted in 1791. Along with nine other amendments. Together they became the Bill of Rights. "The Bill of Rights is a written document that protects civil liberties under the US. law." There are five freedoms that this amendment protects. They are freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and the right to petition the government. This amendment helps to prevent the government from making a law that regulates a certain religion. That makes it so that a person can't be discriminated against over their religion.

Many bad things would happen without this amendment. The world would be very different. The government would have a lot more power because people wouldn't be able to give their ideas and opinions on how to help. It would also be different in the sense that there would still be slavery because no one would open their mouth to say it was wrong. Now because of this amendment people can have more freedoms and can come together. We can feel the truly United States that we now are because of freedom of speech.

Entry  
#19

## The First Amendment

I believe that the First Amendment, freedom of expression, is the most important amendment. The First Amendment protects the freedom of speech, press, religion, and protest. This means you are free to say what you want, publish or post what you want, worship the religion of your choice, and have the right to protest peacefully and petition the government. I chose this amendment because it protects many rights and these rights are what make American citizens safe in their country. I also thought this amendment's partly what makes America so different from other countries, such as North Korea or Libya, who can't enjoy the rights of the First Amendment.

The First Amendment protects so many rights that life would be so different without it. For one, people of different religions would not be able to worship in peace and might face persecution. If the freedom of speech was taken away from us, people who speak their minds and those who protest against the government would be punished. The First Amendment protects four very similar rights; freedom of speech, press, religion, and petition. Freedom of speech and religion, in my opinion, are the most important rights protected by the First Amendment. Saying what you want about the government and laws is partly what convinces the government to change certain laws. Worshiping your own religion and being able to convert from one religion to another without worrying about punishment or worshipping in secret is what makes Americans confident about their differences and it lets them know they can have multiple choices in their ways of worship. Without the First Amendment, our country would become divided and we would not be able to call ourselves the "United States" anymore.

Entry  
#20

## Entry #21

### The 15th Amendment

The 15th Amendment is the amendment that gives the right for any man to vote, no matter their race. This was adopted in the U.S.A (United States of America) law on February 3, 1870. Despite this, by the late 1870s, discriminatory practices were used to keep African Americans from practicing their right to state in a region. It wasn't until the voting rights turn of 1965 that judicial roadblocks were criminalized at the government and local levels if they were denied the right for African Americans place to vote. This amendment was one of the three reconstruction amendments after the Civil War. The first state to ratify this amendment was Nevada, and the last state to ratify it was Tennessee.

This amendment should be protected at all costs because it isn't fair for only white men to vote and no one else. Even after this was passed, it was still hard for African Americans to vote in the United States. People had to prove that they could read before they could vote, this is called a "Literacy Check". This was very difficult for African Americans back then due to the lack of education. Also, poll taxes were fees people had to pay in order to vote, and many African Americans could not afford them. Segregation was still active, many white supremacists put "White Only" signs in the voting locations and African Americans couldn't enter the voting facility. The 15th amendment says "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." The 15th amendment shows that amendments can be nothing but words without laws to actually enforce them.

## Entry #22

### The First Amendment

| The First Amendment is freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and the right to petition against the government. This amendment is important because if this amendment was not protected, people would be persecuted for no good reason. It also allows people to have a say in the government. This makes everyone happy and everyone protected from unjust persecution or any at all. There are many reasons this amendment should be protected.

This amendment protects everyone, no matter how old you are. You are protected as soon as you are born or when you enter the country. If you are in the United States, you are protected. Some examples of the First Amendment are *Elonis vs the U.S.*, which was about freedom of speech, *Cox vs New Hampshire*, which was about freedom of religion, and *Engel vs Vitale*, which was about freedom to assemble. This amendment should be protected because everyone should have the right to be themselves, and do what they want. This amendment is neither "left-wing" nor "right-wing". It can be used to push for social and political change or to reject change. It prevents the government from requiring you to say something you do not want to and allows you to receive information. Students can pray at public schools, as long as it does not interfere with the school's operations. The government can not deny benefits from your current or past memberships. If you need a driver's license or food stamps, the government is required to provide them.

Since this Amendment is so important and protects us from many wrong persecutions, it should always be enforced, or protected. Thanks to the amendment we can say anything, practice any religion and assemble and petition against the government, peacefully.

## The Second Amendment

The Second Amendment is, "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." It was created in 1791. The government can't restrict weapons that are used for legal purposes. This amendment is important because people will be able to defend themselves and others around them. You might not be able to have a gun in your possession if the government thinks you aren't fit to have one due to your criminal record, are addicted to any drug, and anyone who is mentally defective. The main reason the Second Amendment was created was that the government wanted to allow all civilians to defend themselves from any possible threat. The minimum age you must be to acquire a firearm is eighteen years old. The Second Amendment applies to the United States as a whole. The Second Amendment also protects the right to gun control. This means that the government can restrict or prevent anyone from the use of firearms.

The original purpose of this amendment was to prevent the need for the United States to have a professional army and unlawful violence such as murder. The importance of the second amendment is the ability to rebel against a harsh or cruel government. The Second Amendment also allows us to protect ourselves from foreign and household attacks if the government won't. This amendment was proposed by James Madison, the 4th president of the United States of America. The Second Amendment is included in the Bill of Rights. This is a very important amendment, but also one of the most debatable being challenged over fourteen hundred times.

Entry  
#23

### Amendments To Protect

The fourteenth amendment's liberty protection is freedom of privacy. Freedom of privacy means that someone cannot go through your house, car, belongings, etcetera without your permission or a warrant. This is important because this is our home, our car, these are our things and we should be able to control whether other people interfere with them. The fourteenth amendment is so much more than just privacy, it gives us freedom and a say that we do belong here. We have the right to say they cannot go through our things. The first amendment, freedom of speech is also a very important amendment that needs to be more credited.

Freedom of speech is part of a very important amendment. It is a very important amendment because everyone deserves a say without being criticized. You should be able to get your opinion out and share it because everyone's opinion is equal no matter what it is. Although yes words can harm people when used in a harmful manner, everyone deserves to have their opinion heard no matter how hurtful it is. Hurtful or not we need our opinions said and freedom of speech lets them be heard.

In conclusion, the fourteenth amendment's privacy rights and freedom of speech should be protected. As I previously stated, you belong here too and to be in control of your belongings. Knowing you have the right to say no one can search your things, is truly amazing. Freedom of speech is important also because I believe we should all have the chance to influence our community and yes actions are better than words, but words can count as well. These two amendments deserve more recognition, they need to be protected.]

Entry  
#24

## Entry #25

### The Fourteenth Amendment

The Fourteenth Amendment should be protected. It is extremely important. One of its most important components states that Congress is prohibited from taking away anyone's life, liberty, or property without a fair trial. Another important component is inherent, or automatic, rights. These include the right to marry, rights to privacy, and the freedom to travel between states. This Amendment also places an emphasis on the fact that anyone born in the United States is an automatic citizen of said country. Since The Fourteenth Amendment is so important, it should never be changed.

The Fourteenth Amendment should not be changed because it protects all citizens of the United States. Section One reads: "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law...." This means that a State government is prohibited from passing unfair laws. It also means that a State is forbidden from taking anyone's life, liberty, or property without a fair trial. This Amendment applies to all citizens of the United States. Without the Fourteenth Amendment, the freedoms, rights, and liberties given to citizens of the United States by the Constitution could be taken away by a State government without a fair trial.

Although there are many Amendments to the Constitution, I believe that the Fourteenth Amendment is one of the most important Amendments because it is the foundation of fairness for all citizens of the United States. If it didn't exist, many people would be punished without due process. With the protection of this Amendment, all Americans are able to live happier lives.

### The First Amendment

The first amendment is freedom of speech. There are five different freedoms that this protects. These freedoms are speech, assembly, press, religion, and the right to petition the government. This first amendment is given to you the day you were born. You don't even have to be a citizen of the United States in order for this to protect you. This does not mean that you can't get punished for your actions, or what you say. This amendment came to be when our forefathers agreed that the constitution needed protection.

One of these freedoms protects our government from forcing a citizen to say something that they do not want to say, or they do not agree with. This is important because if someone wants to pass information to someone else, the government can not tell them not to, or have them change it. Another one, the government can't keep us from reading what we want to read or what we want to learn. We always have the right to learn information. Especially as students, we have our very own right to be able to pray in school, even if the school we go to is a public school. Especially if the school day goes uninterrupted and certain officials aren't involved. The first amendment falls right in the middle of political views and religious views. Meaning that it is just right for everyone's opinions and views.

Entry  
#26

### The Second Amendment

The Second Amendment is the "right to keep and bear arms" or in other words the right to keep guns. It is important because it allows people to defend their country. It can also reduce crimes in that area. For example, a person will be too scared to commit a crime because everyone in that area or at least a handful of the population has a gun and even if they do commit a crime a person can hold them there until law enforcement arrives. It is a basic right and should be protected because it shows our freedom and protects everyone. Other places might not have this right. Although I think this right should be protected, others may not think the same.

Some people may not think this right should be protected because they might think it can increase crimes and gun violence. For example, more guns, more violence, and crimes. But I think that only criminals and careless people could create more gun violence and crimes and more people are respectful and do not abuse this right. They could also think this by simply just not liking guns at all and stating that they think no one should have a gun. The Second Amendment also gives us the right to hunt animals although some areas are prohibited to hunt and some animals you may not hunt there is also a certain time for hunting. In conclusion, the Second Amendment should be protected for all legal, law-abiding citizens.

Entry  
#27

## Entry #28

I think the most important liberty that Americans have is in the first amendment, the freedom of speech. Having the freedom of speech is crucial to spreading information, to spreading the truth. As someone who talks a lot, I couldn't imagine my life not being able to express my opinion. These are some reasons I think this liberty is the most important.

The freedom of speech allows us to spread information and become aware of what's going on around us. This helps us to become educated and make important decisions such as deciding who to vote for and who to support.

This liberty also allows us to be a democracy. In the United States, the power goes to the people so that we don't have a monarchy or dictatorship like other countries. Could you imagine life in places like North Korea where you don't have any liberties, power, or say in government? The first amendment includes peaceful protests. A recent example of this right being taken away would be in Russia. People protesting the war are being arrested for standing up for what they believe in.

Of course with everything, there are limitations. For example, you can not go around saying you are going to harm the president. That is not protected by the freedom of speech. This liberty also does not include blackmail, defamation, true threats, perjury, and more. This is understandable because it keeps us safe without taking away our right.

This is why I think the freedom of speech is the most important amendment we Americans have. It allows us to state our opinions, be involved, and express ourselves.

## Entry #29

I believe that the individual liberty that is most important and in most need of protection from government oppression is freedom of religion. I believe this because many people follow different kinds of religion such as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Bahá'i, Shinto, Cao Dai, African traditional religions, and many more religions that people follow all over the world. People follow and take these religions very seriously, so protecting the people's right to follow any religion is very important. One of the many reasons people immigrated to America in the first place was so they could practice any religion without the fear of persecution. This Another reason why I think the freedom of religion is the most important liberty to protect from government oppression.

Another reason why I think freedom of religion is the most important liberty to protect is because in many countries the governments don't have freedom of religion, and they persecute and even kill people who follow religions they do not allow. In the U.S we don't have this problem. But we could have this problem if we don't protect the freedom of religion from government oppression therefore we. People should not have to hide their beliefs and religious values in fear of the government and persecution. When we hide our beliefs we are not being our true selves. Instead were are just pretending to not believe in something because we are afraid of the government. But if we protect the freedom of religion from government oppression, we won't have to hid our beliefs and we can be our true selves.

## Entry #30

I think that the Fourth amendment is the most important to be protected against government oppression. My right to privacy of my home, and any of my possessions is one of the most fundamental rights that protects who I am as a person. The amendment that presents this is the Fourth amendment of the US Constitution. The Definition of the Fourth amendment is simple, it forbids the act of unreasonable searches and seizures. Or, as the Bill of Rights states, the people have the right “to be secure in their persons houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures.”

This right limits the power of the police to seize and search our property, homes and information. A search requires a warrant, issued by a magistrate, or judge or Supreme court official for a law enforcement officer to be able to conduct a search of a person, at his/her location or vehicle. Its historical meaning goes back to the English tradition of “my house is my castle,” where the authority of the King’s limited to enter people’s houses and conduct arrests. King George introduced the use of the conveniently worded “writs of assistance.” These were legal search warrants that were very obscure in detail. British officers could receive a “writ of assistance” to examine any ground they believed might’ve had contraband. British officers could access anyone’s property or home with no announcement and without any reason. Officers were allowed to question anyone about their goods and force agreement. With the passage of the Fourth Amendment in 1789, the government made a declaration that our right to unreasonable searches would be protected from governmental oppression. Today, for example, an officer cannot just come into our home and search our property without having probable cause and a duly executed search warrant.

## Entry #31

We as Americans have individual rights that are granted to us by the Constitution. In all, there are 27 amendments in the Constitution. The first ten amendments of the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment, in my opinion, has the liberties that I feel are most in need of protection from governmental oppression. More specifically, the liberties that I feel are most in need of protection from oppression are the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion.

I feel that freedom of speech is a liberty in most need of protection because in some countries, such as China, Russia, and North Korea, you can be arrested or even killed for speaking out against the government or saying anything bad about government leaders. I also feel that freedom of religion is a liberty that is in most need of protection from the government because, like the freedom of speech, some countries do not allow people to be of a religion or allow them to convert from their state religion. Another reason I feel that freedom of religion is in most need of protection is because I feel that everyone should have the choice to believe in God, no matter if people reject believing in God or not.

In conclusion, all the liberties and individual rights we have are important and need protection, but the liberties I listed are the liberties that I feel are in the most need of protection from governmental oppression. Some countries are less fortunate than us and don't have these freedoms, which is why these liberties should be well protected from being oppressed by the government. If we didn't have the freedoms that we have, what would be the difference between America and all the other countries in the world?

## Entry #32

There are many different amendments related to the bill of rights. There are about 10 of these amendments. Today, we're going to spotlight the 1st part of the 1st amendment, The freedom of religion. The first amendment assures the free exercise of any religion. There are many religions in conjunction with Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Etc. In earlier chronologies (Example 1900 AD.) Our ancestors moved here because of their right to freedom of religion. In countries like North Korea, Russia, Pakistan, Syria, and Belarus people are made fun of because of their faith. People move to the U.S for one reason, they can practice any religion they want.

The first justification why I postulate that the freedom of religion is the most important is because that's why my family came here. This sounds miscellaneous but most people immigrate from their country because they can practice their religion freely. They come to the country because they don't have to worry about the government interfering with their spiritual thoughts. People do not like their current countries because of this exact logic.

How does the government conserve this proclamation? The 1st amendment states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." That states that freedom of religion is reinforced by the First Amendment of the United States government. That prohibits any laws establishing a national religion or restrictions on any religion.

As implied in this passage, freedom of religion is a very vital amendment. That is why my speculation articulates that the freedom of belief is the most extensive and admired U.S amendment.

## Entry #33

I believe that freedom of speech is one of the most important rights to be protected from government oppression. I think that the freedom of speech is a right that people brush off as something that is not as important as they think it is. You would say, "It's just being able to talk freely, right?" Yes and no. For the general part, it's being able to talk freely, but there's much more to this freedom than people may think.

First, many countries such as North Korea, Russia, and Saudi Arabia, have little to no freedom of speech. In North Korea for example, if you speak against the government, you will most likely be faced with major consequences. Also, in Russia people are being arrested for protesting against the war. Can you imagine not being able to speak your mind about things that you want the government to change or do? In America and many other countries, people are able to speak their minds about things they want to change, add, or act on. Since many people are born into this freedom, they don't realize how important it is.

Although this freedom comes with many advantages, it's not boundless. You may speak up against the government, or speak your opinion, but it's important to never threaten the government, government leaders, or Americans in general. In these types of cases, it's wrong and can gain you much attention (not in a good way). You should not spread printed or spoken lies about someone. This can ruin one's reputation. Slander and libel are crimes which should not be committed.

In my opinion, I think freedom of speech is most important and it should be taken very seriously.

## Entry #34

I believe the individual liberty that I feel is in most need of protection from governmental oppression is the freedom of religion. I feel this freedom is so important since this protects one's right to live, speak, and act according to their beliefs peacefully and without being victimized. This is because in many countries people are persecuted for their beliefs. America is set apart from the rest of the world since we can practice any belief we would like to, and the government can't interfere with it. The First Amendment was made on December 15, 1791. This made it so the government had to respect all religions and not favor one over the other. It also restricts the government (most of the time) from interfering with a person's religious practices. Religious freedom means more than what we think it is. It means we can worship at any religious place we would like to such as a church, synagogue, mosque, temple etc. It means that we shouldn't have to go against our religious values and beliefs in order to please the government. This freedom lets us be who we really are. It lets us express ourselves and our religion without having a fear that we'll get harmed for it. This protects our ability to express ourselves at workplaces, schools, and homes. This amendment allows all kinds of faiths to thrive. The freedom of religion protects the rights of all groups and individuals, including the budding and not well known religions. This is why I think the freedom of religion is the most important amendment.

## The First Amendment

I feel that the first amendment has our liberties that are in need of most protection from government oppression. The first amendment gives us all of our freedoms to express ourselves. Without this amendment, you wouldn't be able to have your say in many of your daily activities.

In our freedom of speech, you can say what you want to spread your opinion without the government interfering in what you have to say. Our country can never establish a permanent religion. This means no one can ever be forced to believe in something they don't. In our freedom of the right to assemble, you can join or hold peaceful protests to express what you believe. In our freedom of the press, you can broadcast or publish what you wish as long as you don't tell lies. Lastly, we have the freedom of petition. This gives us our freedom to ask or make a change in our government.

With all of these rights, there are aspects of the first amendment that you are not protected from. You are not protected from obscenity, perjury, blackmailing or true threats. You also can't protest violently and cause damage to the area around where you are protesting.

All of these rights are given to you and protected by the first amendment. If the government interferes with these rights you can't express yourself in any way that goes against the government's choices or decisions. I feel grateful to live in a country where my freedoms to express myself are protected.

Entry  
#35

## Entry #36

I believe that the individual liberties that are most in need of protection from government oppression are the liberties stated in the Fifth and Eighth Amendments. The rights stated in both the Fifth and Eighth Amendments are important because they create fair treatment within the court. The Fifth Amendment states that due process of law must be used in every prosecution and states that citizens have protection from self-incrimination both protecting citizens from receiving unfair treatment in court. The Eighth Amendment also protects citizens from unfair punishments and excessive bail. I believe that fair treatment in court is very important and must be protected from government oppression because if it is not protected, people will be unfairly treated during prosecutions and even after the verdict has been made. This could lead to an unbalanced power in government.

The Eighth and Fifth Amendments both protect rights to ensure equal treatment in court. Anything clearly stated in the Constitution is a law. This means that all rights stated in the Fifth and Eighth Amendments are protected from governmental oppression. If any rights stated in the Constitution were to be violated, the situation can be taken to court to decide if someone's Constitutional rights were taken away.

In conclusion, I believe that the rights in the Fifth and Eighth Amendments are important because they create a fair treatment in the court system. This is important to me because fair treatment especially in a courtroom is a concept that makes a nation stronger. If a right is stated in the Constitution, violating it is against the law. This is why I believe that rights stated in the Fifth and Eighth Amendments are in most need of protection from governmental oppression and this is how they are protected by the Constitution.

Citations:

Cornell, School Law. "Eighth Amendment." *Legal Information Institute*, Legal Information Institute, 1992, [Link](#)

Cornell, School Law. "Fifth Amendment." *Legal Information Institute*, Legal Information Institute, 1992, [Link](#)

## Entry #37

The safeguarding of individual liberties is vital to sustaining a progressive society. United States Citizens' right to vote regardless of race, color, ethnicity, or gender is the liberty most in need of protection from governmental oppression. When voting rights are violated, people's voice in the government is lost. This takes away from the equal protection given by laws because not everyone's concerns and wishes are taken into consideration. The right of all people to vote is essential in any democracy.

Voting allows people to push for change. When people go to the polls they are able to exercise their rights that were long fought for. Denying individuals the right to vote keeps them from achieving the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that they were guaranteed in the Declaration of Independence. For years, only white men who owned property were allowed to vote, which represented six percent of the U.S. population. Fortunately, the writers of the constitution built a system in which Americans, throughout generations, could change the system of government as they saw fit.

The constitution, along with society, has improved substantially from when it was first written. It now provides security over everyone's voting rights in the fifteenth and nineteenth amendments which nullify race and gender-based disenfranchisement. Today, each state has its own voting restrictions and regulations but no state can include any color or sex-based limitations.

Civil liberties are important means of protection for all citizens. They promote fairness and equality. The constitution, over the years, has been made to ensure that our human rights are secured. We are blessed to have a national constitution that changes as viewpoints, perspectives, and values expand.

## Entry #38

I believe that the 6th amendment contains the most important civil liberties. The 6 amendment protects the right to have a “speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury.” I believe that this amendment is the most important to protect, because if you commit a crime, you should have a fair trial. If you did not have a fair trial, you could go to jail, because of discrimination of your race or gender, or something the jury has a prejudice against. The jury can not be impartial and vote you guilty just because of your race or gender. Criminals who have committed horrible crimes like murder, should have trials that do not take years to happen, they should be punished for their crimes in a timely manner. However if you are not guilty, but they vote you guilty because of a prejudice they have, you could serve months to years in jail, while the real criminal could roam freely committing more terrible crimes.

When bringing a controversial case into trial, you need impartial people so you can even bring up your points, because you can have a really good reason and good arguments, but if your jury is not impartial they can vote to not pass it. Your right to a speedy trial is also very important. For example you can be a person who is convinced guilty for a crime you did not do, if your trial takes years to decades to happen your anxiety or stress over the trial could be entrance, when you commit some crimes, jobs can reject you just because of that, so you could also get anxiety from that. So in conclusion I believe that the 6th amendment contains the most important civil liberties.

## The Freedom of Assembly

The Freedom to Assembly is one of the best benefits of living in America. In my opinion, this is the most important right in the first amendment. The freedom to assemble is the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. This is so important because it lets citizens be heard without the freedom of speech. Assembly helps a community come together to express their shared ideas. It is our right to promote our opinions.

An example of this would be the “Black Lives Matter” movement. The Black Lives Matter movement is a decentralized political and social movement that aims to raise awareness about racism, discrimination, and inequality that black people face. There have been dozens of assemblies and protests for racial equality. Supporters come together to protest against police brutality and racial motivated violence. Somebody finally spoke up about it and used their rights to do something about it. People were brave enough to stand up against the police and did what was right when no one else did. This is one of the best examples of using your freedom of assembly.

If we all give it some deep consideration, the world has so many problems. We do have the right to assembly, but it isn't used to its full potential. We should never take our rights for granted. Even when the law seems unfair, we are extremely lucky. Some countries don't even have basic rights. This is why the government is a vital part of our rights in America. The government should protect our rights because someone is going to use the freedom to assemble in the most amazing way possible.

Entry  
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## Entry #40

The individual liberty that I feel needs most protection is the fourteenth amendment's, Equal Protection Clause. This clause requires a state to govern impartially, as long as you are not trying to overthrow the government, you will not be discriminated against for things like religion, race, ethnic groups.

The fourteenth amendment's Equal Protections was added to the government to protect people from being wrongfully discriminated against due to their religion, race, ethnic groups, etc. I feel this liberty is important to protect because there are many times this has happened in the past and even recently. Some people have lost their lives or got wrongfully imprisoned due to this liberty being ignored or not having yet been implemented.

Many people or cases have not been given a proper trial due to judgement related to one's religion, ethnic group, race, etc. One example of this is Emmet Till. Emmet harassed a white woman, her husband then kidnapped Emmet, beat him severely, shot him twice, then drowned him. The judge said the men who were related to his death were not guilty as Emmet's body was so disfigured, he couldn't be recognized, although his mother recognized his body from a ring with his initials on it.

Another more recent case is what happened to George Floyd. George Floyd was suspected of using a counterfeit bill. Police were called to the scene, and police officers pin him to the ground, puts his knee on George's neck, George stops breathing, and then dies. Many people believe it was racially motivated, thus this case triggered the BLM movement.

In conclusion, I feel this amendment is very important to protect. In the past there may have been lots more cases like Emmet Till's and George Floyd's that did not reach history.

We The People. The inaugural motto of our nation's most important document, the Constitution. It is a powerful statement that exemplifies how the United States' founding fathers envisioned their fellow citizens' role in their new society. Within our Constitution, the first ten Amendments, better known as the Bill of Rights, spells out Americans' rights in relation to their government. The most critical of all the Amendments is the First Amendment in our Constitution that protects several fundamental values of our society – religion, speech, press, and the right to petition and assemble. As a country, we have had an unwavering commitment to these principles. For they have withstood tough battles throughout our history and have remained a cornerstone of our democracy. However, the principles of the First Amendment have been challenged many times and I believe need our utmost protection against government oppression.

For I believe this because, the First Amendment in our Constitution protects all people in expressing their opinions and beliefs no matter their wealth, race, or gender. Freedom of speech comes without fear of persecution, being thrown in jail, or death for expressing their beliefs. The First Amendment also prohibits the government from creating laws to restrict speech even if it's unpopular or unconventional. This gives us the peace of mind that our statements, opinions, and ideas will not be blocked for any reason, no matter the viewpoint of individuals expressing themselves. Therefore, free speech is truly vital for our democracy to function properly in the modern world.

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In conclusion, our Constitution is key to keeping freedoms of religion, speech, press, and the right to petition and assemble protected from governmental oppression. Due to its dynamic ability to safeguard our freedoms, the Constitution will continue to keep the beacon of liberty shining for the American people.

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“Towards a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change.”

[The U.S. Constitution establishes a framework that protects the individual liberties by which we so cherish in a bid to safeguard us from governmental oppression. These essential freedoms can be found by unlocking the underlying tenets and principles as are contained in amendments one, five, and six.

Consider for a moment the inherent liberties that we have under the freedom of speech, press, and peaceful assembly that allow individuals to speak their minds honestly and openly without fear of the government interfering or absconding their will for their voices to be heard on the street, or in their respective community. Such freedoms protect us from the abuses of slander and libel while aiding us in our efforts to fight and defend a cause that we determine to be noteworthy.

The Fifth Amendment ensures that criminal defendants have the right to a grand jury while prohibiting double jeopardy. This prohibits an accused person from having to incur the emotional, psychological, physical, and financial strains associated with multiple trials for the same alleged offense. Furthermore, this rule of law ensures that the government may not seize private property without offering and making compensation at the fair market value of the property.

The Sixth Amendment guarantees the right to a public trial without the confinement of unnecessary delay, the right to a lawyer, an impartial jury, along with the nature of the charges and evidence against a person. This maintains that an accused person is presumed innocent until proven guilty and that a verdict cannot be reached until evidence and testimony is presented and heard from both sides, that is to say, the plaintiff and the defendant.

The unalienable and individual rights of life, liberty, and property as are maintained in the U.S. Constitution protect us for posterity from governmental oppression.

Entry  
#42

“Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change.”

I believe the individual liberties that are explicitly denoted in the first, fourth, and sixth amendments of the U.S. Constitution are the cornerstones in serving to protect us against forms of governmental oppression.

The First Amendment allows us to peacefully petition the government when there are matters where an individual or group would like to obtain relief for a wrong they feel the government has committed. This is a vitally important right for a citizen to have because without such a right, a citizen would feel helpless and at the mercy of an entity with all the power. Without such accountability for the rule-making body, those subject to the rules would become servants, not citizens.

The Fourth Amendment stipulates that a government agent may search a person's house after demonstrating probable cause to the satisfaction of a judicial body with proper jurisdiction, and if deemed necessary, to seize and confiscate their belongings. The provisions of this amendment protect an individual from arbitrary arrests, wiretaps, geolocation, and data mining on the basis of the right to privacy in your home.

Under the Sixth Amendment, the constitution grants us the right to an impartial jury, one which is representative of our peers, and ensures that both sides of the case are heard prior to a judge or jury rendering a verdict. Such protocols and procedures are in place to help facilitate an impartial verdict and help to ensure that an accused person is not being unfairly tried on account of their race, gender, age, ethnicity, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, or economic status.

The provisions of the first, fourth, and sixth amendments ensure that the individual liberties of the people are both accounted for and protected from any measures that would restrict, seize, or invalidate the freedoms that bind us together.

Entry  
#43