



THE YOUNG
CITIZENS
PROJECT

Shaping tomorrow. Starting now.



The 27 Amendments

A Student Handbook to
the U.S. Constitution



Simple explanations of every
amendment for students.



EDUCATE. ENGAGE. EMPOWER.



Amendments 1-7

These first amendments protect many of the freedoms and legal rights students hear about most often.



1

Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.



4

The government usually needs a good reason and often a warrant to search you or your property.



2

The right to keep and bear arms.



5

Protects due process, bars double jeopardy, and guards against self-incrimination.



3

Soldiers cannot be forced to live in your home without permission.



6

Gives people in criminal cases the right to a speedy public trial, a lawyer, and an impartial jury.



7

Preserves the right to a jury trial in many civil cases.



Amendments 8-14

These amendments continue to protect our rights and shape how our country works.



8

Bans excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel and unusual punishment.



11

Limits when a state can be sued in federal court.



9

People have rights beyond the ones listed in the Constitution.



12

Creates the system for electing the President and Vice President separately.



10

Powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or the people.



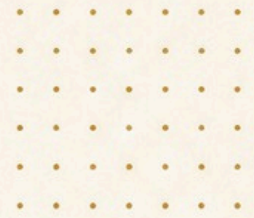
13

Abolishes slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime.



14

Defines citizenship and promises due process and equal protection of the laws.



Amendments 15–21

These amendments expand civil rights, update government processes, and reflect important moments in our history.



15

The right to vote cannot be denied because of race, color, or past enslavement.



18

Started national Prohibition by banning alcohol.



16

Allows Congress to collect a federal income tax.



19

The right to vote cannot be denied because of sex.



17

Senators are elected directly by the people of each state.



20

Sets new start dates for the President, Vice President, and Congress.



21

Repealed the 18th Amendment and ended Prohibition.



Amendments 22–27

These last amendments reflect how our government adapts to the needs of our democracy.



22

No one can be elected President more than twice.



25

Explains what happens if the President dies, resigns, or cannot do the job.



23

People in Washington, D.C., can vote for President.



26

The voting age is 18.



24

Bans poll taxes in federal elections.



27

Changes to congressional pay take effect only after the next election.

“

*The Constitution can change
with the country.*

”



THE CONCLUSION



The future is in your hands.

The 27 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution tell a story of freedom—a story that grows stronger when citizens stay informed, engaged, and committed to justice for all. They protect our rights, adapt to our times, and depend on us.



Learn your rights.



Ask good questions.



Use your voice.

Shaping tomorrow. Starting now.

youngcitizensproject.org

