

Essential Question:

HOW CAN I GET A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RATIFIED?

Supporting Questions:

- How does the Constitution get amended?
- Who do we contact or speak with to present our proposal?
- What is the role of Congress? State Legislatures?
- How long does it take to get support to ratify an amendment?

Content Statement:

Constitutional government in the United States has changed over time as a result of amendments to the U.S. Constitution, Supreme Court decisions, legislation and informal practices.

ELA/Social Studies Standards:

RH.9-10.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.

RH.9-10.6 Compare the perspectives of two or more authors for how they treat the same or similar topics, including which details they include and emphasize in their respective accounts.

RH.9-10.9 Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

Resources:

National Archives

<https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/constitution>

Trex, Ethan. "6 Constitutional Amendments that Just Missed the Cut. September 25, 2015. Downloaded from www.MentalFloss.com

Materials:

"Constitutional Amendment Process." National Archives (Online resource listed above)

"6 Constitutional Amendments that Just Missed the Cut" (see Trex, Ethan. online resource above)

Sequence:

1. Pair Share Warm up:

Name one issue in America that you think deserves to be added as an amendment to the Constitution. Turn to a classmate and explain how you would go about getting your resolution introduced to Congress.

2. Share student ideas and explain that only 27 proposed amendments have been approved by Congress and have received 2/3 of all states' approval to become ratified. In addition, we currently have six amendments that have not been ratified.

3. Next, the teacher lists and describes the six Constitutional Amendments that have not yet received 2/3 ratification by the states.

4. The class will read a National Archives document that explains how a proposed amendment can become ratified.

(Article online at <http://mentalfloss.com/article/24412/6-constitutional-amendments-just-missed-cut>)

5. Student teams will each choose one of the unratified proposed amendments.
6. Their task is to organize and create a representation depicting the various perspectives and arguments for/against ratifying the proposed. amendment. (eq. poster, powerpoint, animated video, etc.)

Assessments:

Exit slip: On a piece of paper, list the process by which a resolution becomes a ratified amendments to the Constitution.

<https://quizlet.com/238274/test>

<https://quizlet.com/24173948/test>

Project-based assessment: The teacher and students might choose to create the assessment criteria for the presentations together at the beginning of the assignment.

Extensions: Service Learning

- A. Invite your state representative or senator to participate in a class discussion about the unratified amendments.
- B. Present the group presentations to peers or the community.