



THE “RIGHT” WAY

(40 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students identify how the U.S. Constitution protects citizens' rights by limiting the powers of government.

MATERIALS

The “Right” Way handout

GET READY

- ✓ Duplicate the *The “Right” Way* handout so that you have enough copies for each student in your class.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Review the 10 guarantees of the Bill of Rights. Give examples of what each right protects and ask for additional examples from your students.
- ✓ Distribute the *The “Right” Way* handout. Ask the students to match each scenario with the corresponding guarantee from the Bill of Rights.
- ✓ Let students complete the handout individually or in groups of two.
- ✓ Go over the correct answers with the class, having students explain why they matched the scenarios as they did.
- ✓ Ask students, again individually or in groups of two, to choose the right most important to them.
- ✓ Slowly ask one group to join another group, and then that group to join another, etc. Eventually this will bring the groups back to a class discussion of the most significant rights guaranteed to Americans.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Which right(s) seems to be the most important to this class?*
- ★ *Which right(s) seemed not as important to this class? Why? How might your life change if we lost those rights?*
- ★ *Did you realize that a right was more important to you than you had previously thought?*
- ★ *Was it easy for a group to agree on what right was most important? Why or why not?*

MORE!

Have students write an argument defending what they think is the most important right. Ask students to bring in examples of these rights in newspapers, television, magazines, etc.

VOTE QUOTE

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”
–Edmund Burke

SUGGESTED ASSESSMENTS:

1. *Prepare a questionnaire on the Bill of Rights focusing on how have our rights been limited by the current threat of terrorism. Administer the questionnaire to five adults outside of school.*
2. *Compile results as a class and write four conclusions learned from the survey.*
3. *A portfolio of completed work could be compiled by each student.*



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Match the guarantees of the Bill of Rights with the scenarios that best describe them.

THE 10 GUARANTEES OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS

- A. Freedom of speech
- B. Freedom of the press
- C. Freedom of religion
- D. Freedom to assemble
- E. Protection from unreasonable searches and seizures
- F. Right to bear arms
- G. Protection from self-incrimination
- H. Right to a jury trial
- I. Protection from cruel and unusual punishment
- J. Access to legal counsel

SCENARIOS

- _____ You publish an article critical of a policy issued by your mayor.
- _____ You own a rifle and hunt often.
- _____ A police officer asks to search your home, but you tell him he cannot come in because he does not have a search warrant.
- _____ You attend religious services on the weekends.
- _____ You are arrested for a crime and want to see your lawyer.
- _____ You are charged for a crime and want to be tried by a group of your peers.
- _____ You are being held for a serious crime, but feel safe from being dealt an inhumane punishment.
- _____ You are arrested for a crime, but do not have to say anything that might implicate you in that crime.
- _____ You join a group of friends and protest a construction site in your neighborhood by picketing outside the site on public property.
- _____ You make comments critical of the president's policies but know it is your right to say what you want.