Teaching the Constitution

AnnenbergClassroom.org contains over 65 videos on major constitutional concepts and court cases with learning materials aligned to state standards, as well as lesson plans, timelines, free books for download, and interactive games.

Annenberg Videos Have Won More Than 70 Awards
Videos

The Constitution Project

Award-winning documentaries that contain historical footage, expert commentary from legal scholars and Supreme Court justices, and insights from the key players in the cases.

- The Constitution Project in the Classroom: A guide to using Annenberg Classroom documentaries. (16 mins)
- A Call to Act: Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company** (23 mins)
- Confrontation Clause: Crawford v. Washington (20 mins)
- Executive Branch: What Does a Mayor Do? (19 mins)
- FAQs: Juries (11 segments totaling 40 mins)
  - The English History of Juries
  - The American History of Juries
  - Qualifications and Types of Juries
  - What to Expect as a Juror
  - How a Trial Works
  - The Value of Service
  - Understanding the Language of a Trial
  - A Word from the Judge
  - A Word from the Defense
  - A Word from the Prosecution
  - Grand Juries

- Habeas Corpus: The Guantanamo Cases (25 mins)
- Independent Judiciary: Cherokee Nation v. Georgia** and Cooper v. Aaron** (34 mins)
- Jury Selection: Edmonson v. Leesville Concrete Company (23 mins)
- Key Constitutional Concepts:
  - Creating a Constitution (20 mins)
  - Gideon v. Wainwright** (20 mins)
  - Youngstown v. Sawyer** (20 mins)
- Korematsu and Civil Liberties: *Korematsu v. United States** (27 mins)
- The Legislative Process: How a Bill Becomes a Federal Law (19 mins)
- Magna Carta and the Constitution (27 mins)
- Mandate: The President and the People (34 mins)
- The 19th Amendment: A Woman’s Right to Vote (27 mins)
- One Person, One Vote: *Baker v. Carr** and *Reynolds v. Sims** (26 mins)
- One School's Fight: The Making of a Law (20 mins)
- Presidential Signing Statements (4 segments totaling 43 mins)
  - Separation of Powers
  - Non-Enforcement
  - The Unitary Theory
  - The President’s Intent
- The Role of the Courts (5 segments totaling 22 mins)
  - Different Roles
  - Three Separate Branches
  - Important Cases
  - Respecting the Law
  - Independent Judiciary
- Search and Seizure: *Mapp v. Ohio* (25 mins)
- The Story of the Bill of Rights and the Ten Amendments (17 mins)
- Supremacy Clause: *McCulloch v. Maryland* (24 mins)
- “Thurgood,” starring Laurence Fishburne (1 hr, 44 mins)
- Yick Wo and the Equal Protection Clause: *Yick Wo v. Hopkins** (20 mins)

**New for Constitution Day 2019!**

**The 19th Amendment: A Woman’s Right To Vote**

The 19th Amendment marks its centennial in 2020. This film tells its story: The long, difficult struggle for women to win the right to vote, the meaning of citizenship, the power of the vote, and why women had to change the Constitution to get the vote. The film includes historical footage and interviews with history and legal scholars and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. (27 mins)
Conversations on the Constitution

Supreme Court justices answer questions and discuss constitutional concepts and landmark cases with high school students.

- Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.:
  The Origin, Nature and Importance of the Supreme Court (37 mins)

- Justice Anthony M. Kennedy:
  The Importance of the Yick Wo Case** (30 mins)
  Miranda v. Arizona (27 mins)

- Justice Stephen G. Breyer:
  Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company* (9 mins)
  The Nature of Dissent in the Supreme Court* (18 mins)

- Justices Stephen G. Breyer, Sandra Day O’Connor and Anthony M. Kennedy:
  Brown v. Board of Education (27 mins)
  Freedom of Speech** (30 mins)
  The Importance of the Japanese Internment Cases** (36 mins)
  Judicial Independence (32 mins)
  Jury Service (11 mins)
  The Right to Trial by an Impartial Jury (10 mins)

- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg:
  14th Amendment and Sex Discrimination (42 mins)

- Justice Sandra Day O’Connor:
  Search and Seizure (17 mins)

- Justices Stephen G. Breyer and Antonin Scalia:
  Judicial Interpretation (37 mins)

- Justices Stephen G. Breyer and Sandra Day O’Connor:
  Our Constitution (30 mins)

*Produced in partnership with the National Constitution Center
**Cases aligned with state standards
*** Produced in partnership with Justice Sandra Day O’Connor’s iCivics project (www.icivics.org)
Free Downloadable Books

These books may be downloaded by chapter or the complete book.

The Pursuit of Justice

This book analyzes 30 widely taught Supreme Court cases and summarizes an additional 100 included in state history and civics standards. John J. Patrick is professor emeritus of education at Indiana University-Bloomington. Kermit L. Hall was president and professor of history at the University of Albany, State University of New York.

Understanding Democracy

This guide explains the core concepts of democracy in an A-Z format. John J. Patrick is professor emeritus of education at Indiana University-Bloomington.

Our Constitution

This book takes an in-depth look at the Constitution, annotated with explanations of its terms and contents. Donald A. Ritchie and JusticeLearning.org include texts of primary source materials, sidebar materials on each article and amendment, Supreme Court cases, and timelines. Ritchie is Historian Emeritus of the U.S. Senate. Justice Learning resources have been relocated to AnnenbergClassroom.org.

Our Rights

This book draws upon historical case studies to explore the rights in the Constitution. Supreme Court cases are used to demonstrate both how a right received its modern interpretation and how it applies today. David J. Bodenhamer is a professor of history and the executive director of The Polis Center, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.
Interactive Games on the Constitution

Ready to teach about the three branches of government? In this game, players take on the roles of legislator, president and Supreme Court justice to get constitutional laws enacted. Players juggle several bills while holding press conferences and town hall meetings. ***

That's Your Right

How well do your students know the individual freedoms that the Bill of Rights guarantees? Our fun, online card game for middle and high school students can be played individually or in a multiplayer mode. Players must understand constitutional concepts – from the right against self-incrimination to freedom of the press – and how they apply in different scenarios.

Branches of Power

Ready to teach about the three branches of government? In this game, players take on the roles of legislator, president and Supreme Court justice to get constitutional laws enacted. Players juggle several bills while holding press conferences and town hall meetings. ***

NewsFeed Defenders

Our media literacy game teaches players how to detect and disregard disinformation and misinformation in today’s chaotic environment. Make your students’ gameplay more meaningful by using our activity and assessment set designed specifically for NewsFeed Defenders. An easy-to-use Extension Pack helps you give context and purpose to the game, as well as reinforce and assess the game concepts.
LawCraft

Students play as a senator or representative from a state and political party they select. Then their challenge is to get Congress to pass a bill based on a hot topic from a constituent.

Court Quest

Players help guide ordinary citizens from around the nation who are looking for justice through the local, state and federal court systems. Players will learn about the different courts and their functions. Prepared with this knowledge, they will help citizens find their way to the correct court based on their stories.

Executive Command

Who wants to be President? Players must use their multitasking skills as they consider bills to sign, travel to diplomatic meetings and act as commander-in-chief to handle a military crisis.

Sixth Amendment Interactive

This tool allows students to explore the rights the Sixth Amendment grants to defendants in criminal trials by linking the text’s most debated clauses to expert knowledge on their various interpretations.

*** Produced in partnership with Justice Sandra Day O’Connor’s iCivics project (www.iCivics.org)

This interactive guide to the U.S. Constitution provides the original text and an explanation of the meaning of each article and amendment. The guide is an excellent research tool for your students to use to gain a deeper understanding of our nation’s founding document and the establishment of the federal government.

Our Videos Have Won More Than 70 Awards

Aegis Award  Two ABA Coalition for Justice Awards ABA Silver Gavel Award  Three Aurora Awards Five Best Shorts Competition Awards Three Chicago International Film Festival Awards Six CINDY Awards Seven CINE Golden Eagle Awards Two CINE Masters Series Awards Three CINE Special Jury Awards Four Clarion Awards Two Columbus International Film + Video Festival Awards Three Davey Awards DC Asian Pacific American Festival Award Gold Hermes Creative Award Three Platinum Hermes Creative Awards Two International Academy of the Visual Arts Awards Two Los Angeles International Film Festival Awards Three New York Festival International TV & Film Awards Two REVERE Distinguished Achievement Awards Show Me Social Justice Film Festival Award Seven Bronze Telly Awards United Nations Association Film Festival Award Four U.S. International Film and Video Festival Awards Two Videographer Awards

Find more resources at FactCheck.org and CivicsRenewalNetwork.org.