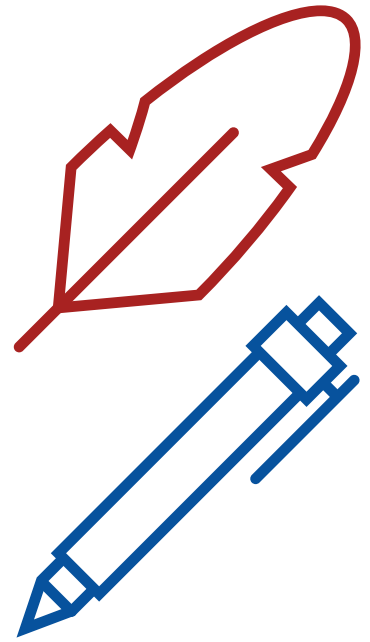


SUMMARIZING

The Bill of Rights



Delegates representing the newly formed United States finished writing the Constitution in 1787, but their work was not done. The thirteen states had to agree to it. The original U.S. Constitution contained few specific guarantees of individual rights. Some delegates were concerned and pushed to add amendments to protect personal freedoms. Ten amendments, called the Bill of Rights, were added to the Constitution in 1791.

Read the first ten amendments. Summarize each amendment in your own words.

First Amendment

“ 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. ”



prohibiting: forbidding
abridging: limiting
assemble: gather
petition: formally request
redress: correction
grievances: complaints about unlawful or unfair actions

Congress cannot make laws that establish or favor one religion over another, or that prevent citizens from practicing their chosen religion. Congress cannot make laws that limit or restrict free speech, or interfere with the ability of the press to do its job. Finally, Congress cannot restrict citizens from peacefully protesting the government or from demanding that Congress address certain problems.

Second Amendment

“ 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**. ”



well regulated militia: military body of trained civilians activated in emergencies
infringed: limited beyond established boundaries

The need to remain secure in a free state means people have the right to own and carry guns.

SUMMARIZING The Bill of Rights

Keep going! Summarize each amendment in your own words.



Third Amendment

“ No soldier shall, in time of peace be **quartered** in any house, without the **consent** of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be **prescribed** by law. ”



quartered: lodged
consent: permission
prescribed: outlined

Soldiers cannot expect to be lodged in a home during peacetime without the consent of the homeowner.

The same is true in time of war, unless there are special circumstances outlined in the law.

Fourth Amendment

“ The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and **seizures**, shall not be **violated**, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or **affirmation**, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized. ”



seizures: taking property by legal force
violated: broken (as in a law)
affirmation: establishment as true

The people are protected from the government searching their homes or belongings or taking their property

unless there is probable cause and a warrant is issued. The warrant must state a true reason for the search and

the person or property to be seized.

Fifth Amendment

“ No person shall be held to answer for a **capital**, or otherwise **infamous** crime, unless on a **presentment** or **indictment** of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land of naval forces, or in a militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in **jeopardy** of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just **compensation**. ”



capital: potentially receiving the death penalty
infamous: shameful
presentment: show or display in court
indictment: formal accusation
jeopardy: danger
compensation: something given as a settlement for injuries

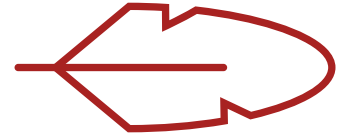
Serious criminal charges must be started by a grand jury except in certain circumstances. A person cannot

be tried twice for the same offense. People can refuse to testify against themselves and cannot be imprisoned

without fair procedures and trials. A person cannot have property taken away without fair compensation.

SUMMARIZING The Bill of Rights

Keep going! Summarize each amendment in your own words.



Sixth Amendment

“ In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district where the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously **ascertained** by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be **confronted** with the witnesses against him; to have **compulsory** process for obtaining witnesses in his favor; and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense. ”



ascertained: learned
confronted: openly faced
compulsory: required

People accused of crimes have the right to a speedy and public trial, a trial by an impartial jury in criminal cases, and to be informed of criminal charges. Witnesses must face the accused, and the accused is allowed their own witnesses and to be represented by a lawyer.

Seventh Amendment

“ In suits at **common law**, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be **preserved**, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law. ”



common law: a legal case between two civilian parties (not involving the government) that uses a jury trial; also called civil law
preserved: protected

People have the right to a jury trial in significant common law cases (between two people rather than between a person and the government).

Eighth Amendment

“ **Excessive bail** shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. ”



excessive bail: an amount of money greater than what is required to ensure a person released after arrest will return to stand trial

People accused of crimes cannot be asked to pay amounts in bail or fines that are more than what is reasonable. Punishments for crimes cannot be too harsh or severe.
