THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION
A GRAPHIC ADAPTATION
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Dear Educator,

When Jonathan Hennessey sat down next to me at the New York Comic Con panel a few years ago, an entire roomful of people got to see what happens when a 30 year-old dork meets one of his heroes. As an educator who has used his work in the classroom, being in his presence filled me with the same feeling of adoration that I felt when the Red Hot Chili Peppers blew me away as a teenager. His book, *The U.S. Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation*, sits as a class set on my shelf available to anyone who wants or needs them, which turns out to be a fair number of people! In addition to using it in my own class curriculum, I’ve often lent copies of Hennessey’s book to students who are struggling in the U.S. Government and Advanced Placement U.S. Government classes of my colleagues. When I actually got the chance to describe my successes with his book while Hennessey looked on, my praise flowed earnestly and honestly.

*The U.S Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation* is an ambitious work that works! It is everything that I love about graphic novels in education. It breaks down complex topics into simple ones. It makes quick work of many U.S Government and U.S. History standards. Most importantly, it pleasantly surprises young people who were expecting to parse through a (to them) dry document and instead get to explore the 9th Amendment through the lens of a superhero known as The Penumbra!

Ok, so I’ve talked this up quite a bit. There are some serious challenges that go along with introducing students to an unfamiliar art form that encompasses a high-level document like the constitution. First, your students are going to have to learn how to read a graphic novel. Some of Hennessey’s pages sacrifice flow for effect, so it may not be immediately clear which narration boxes appear in which order. Second, you’ll want to be careful to divvy up the pages into manageable chunks that your level of students can handle. Just because this work is more entertaining than a plain text does not mean students attention spans will increase by much. Finally, I encourage you not to be satisfied with just substituting the graphic novel for your traditional medium. Help your students discover the value and power of images in learning! Incorporate political cartoons. Have them create images of their own. Help them understand why visual media is the primary tool of persuasion in politics and the most engaging medium in history. See what you can do to make your lessons more engaging and fun!

Looking Forward!

Jason Nisavic
Bleed - images that run outside the border of the panel

Border - edge or outline of the comic page

Captions - contain information about a scene or character

Colorist - This person gives the comic color, and add to the weight and vibrancy of the image. The colorist is often responsible for helping set tone and mood via color.

Dialogue Word Balloons - contain character dialogue; communication between/among characters

Emanata - text or icons that represent what is going on in a character's head

Frame - lines or boxes around a panel(s)

Graphic weight - a term that describes the way some images draw the eye more than others, creating a definite focus using color and shading in various ways

Gutters - space between panels where the reader infers movement and action between panels

Panels - squares or rectangles that contain a single scene

Penciler - Primary artist. This person takes the script and draws the comic. They draw the comic in pencil which then gets inked and colored later on.

Sound Effect - words that show sound is happening

Thought Balloons - contain a character’s thoughts

Writer - The writer writes the story and has the overall vision of how the story will go. They write the dialogue and how the story will progress.
Constitution (pg. 6) – A system of rules and beliefs that make a government work.
“Summer Soldier” / “Sunshine Patriot” (pg. 6) – People who only support their country when it is easy or without risk.

Tyranny (pg. 7) – When a single ruler is in control and uses their power to scare or hurt people.
Consolation (pg. 7) – Something that comforts you in a time of grief.
Colonies (pg. 7) – A group of people that are ruled over by a country that is far away.

Liberty (pg. 8) – Being free to do what you want.
“Reigned Over” (pg. 8) – “Ruled by.”
Privilege (pg. 8) – People who have an advantage over others (e.g. wealthy, more free)

“On High” (pg. 9) – Another way to say “God” or “The Gods.”
Contemplated (pg. 9) – Thought about.

Preordained (pg. 10) – Already decided by fate.
Philosopher (pg. 10) – A person who tries to discover truth about the world.
Rights (pg. 10) – Things that a person is allowed to do.
Jeopardy (pg. 10) – Danger, Trouble.
Compromise (pg. 10) – Finding something that everyone can agree on.
Government (pg. 10) – The group in charge that makes the laws and controls the country.
Legitimate (pg. 10) – Legal, something that deserves to exist.
Consent (pg. 10) – Permission.
Absolute (pg. 10) – Complete.
Affirm (pg. 10) – To support or encourage.

Radical (pg. 11) – Extreme, Very different from what most people normally accept.
Perilous (pg. 11) – Dangerous.
Parliament (pg. 11) – Group of people that come together to govern.

Restrictive (pg. 12) – Keeping people tightly controlled.
Provision (pg. 12) – A section of a law.
Revenue (pg. 12) - Money that is made when a business sells goods or when a country taxes people.
Dominions (pg. 12) - Lands that are owned by a country.
Dutiful (pg. 12) – Feeling the need to do what you are told.
“Rates and Duties” (pg. 12) – Taxes.
Representation (pg. 12) – A voice among the people in charge.
Livelihood (pg. 12) – A person’s job, a way to make enough money to survive.
Gall (pg. 12) – A bold attitude that leads someone to do something stupid.
Subordinate (pg. 12) – Below, submissive
Statutes (pg. 12) – Another word for laws.
Validity (pg. 12) – Something that needs to be respected.
Whatsoever (pg. 12) – “No matter what happens.”
Riots (pg. 13) – When groups of people destroy property and commit other crimes together.
Boycotting (pg. 13) – To refuse to buy products from a business or a country.
Intolerable (pg. 13) – Unacceptable, Something that you can’t put up with.
Grievances (pg. 13) Complaints, problems.
Tensions (pg. 13) – Problems between people that could lead to fighting if they aren’t solved.

Manpower (pg. 14) – People who work or fight for you.
“Bogged Down” (pg. 14) – Stuck.

Arbitrary (pg. 15) – Senseless, random.
Traitor (pg. 15) – Someone who betrays their friends or their country.
Bind (pg. 15) – To tie up or tie together.
League (pg. 15) – Group.

Foreign (pg. 16) – Someone or something that comes from another land or country
Obstruct (pg. 16) - Block, keep from happening.
Obligations (pg. 16) – Things that you have to do, usually for someone else.

Spurring (pg. 17) – Leading to, creating.
Inflation (pg. 17) – When prices of goods go up, requiring people to pay more money for them. (e.g. the cost up milk going up from $4.00 per gallon to $5.00 per gallon.)
Debt (pg. 17) – When you owe people money or favors.
Rebelled (pg. 17) – Fighting against the government to try to correct a problem.
Disarray (pg. 17) – Out of order, confusion.
Verging (pg. 17) – Moving closer towards.
Anarchy (pg. 17) – When no one is in control.
Crisis (pg. 17) – A dangerous problem that needs to be fixed right away.

Dictators (pg. 18) – Rulers that don’t have to compromise with anyone & can do whatever they want.
Delegates (pg. 18) – People who speak for & can make decisions for their home land or home state.
Wield (pg. 18) – To use something.
Corrupting (pg. 18) – Influencing someone into making bad decisions.
Monarchy (pg. 18) – When a country is ruled by a king or queen.

Authority (pg. 19) – Having the power to make the rules.
Surpass (pg. 19) – To pass something by, to rise above something.

Supremacy (pg. 20) – Having power over everyone around you.
Retained (pg. 20) – Kept, to keep.
Binding (pg. 20) – Holding together.
Continuous (pg. 21) – When something keeps going without being interrupted.
Costly (pg. 21) – Expensive.
Judiciously (pg. 21) – Strictly, specifically.
Federalism (pg. 21) – Sharing power between the big national (Federal) government and all the smaller state, county, and city governments.
Realize (pg. 21) – To make something happen.
Principles (pg. 21) – Important rules to live by.
Defective (pg. 21) – Broken.

Act (pg. 22) – Action.
Constituting (pg. 22) – Creating.
Aspect (pg. 22) – Detail.
Athens (pg. 22) – A city in Ancient Greece. Athens was one of the first examples of a democracy in world history.

Vague (pg. 23) – Unclear, hard to see or understand.
Procedures (pg. 23) – Steps that you follow in order to do something.

Inadmissible (pg. 24) – Isn’t allowed.
Executive (pg. 24) – Another word for the President and everyone who works for the president.
Fetus (pg. 24) – A pregnancy in-progress, could eventually be born.
Lately (pg. 24) – Recently.
Inconsistent (pg. 24) – Doesn’t stay the same.
Dishonorable (pg. 24) – Sneaky, tricky, shady, not playing fair.
Assurance (pg. 24) – Telling someone that things are OK.
Liberties (pg. 24) – Freedoms.
Realistic (pg. 24) – Trying to see the world as it really is & preparing for its challenges.
Impulse (pg. 24) – Temptation, the desire to do something
Clamoring (pg. 24) – Wanting something very badly.
Agendas (pg. 24) – Plans.
Federalist (pg. 24) – Someone who thinks that a strong National (Federal) Government is a good thing.

Preamble (pg. 25) – Words that come before the constitution that explain why the constitution exists.
Domestic (pg. 25) – At home.
Tranquility (pg. 25) – Peace.
General (pg. 25) – Everyone.
Welfare (pg. 25) – Being healthy and well-fed.
Secure (pg. 25) – Safe.
Articles (pg. 26) – Sections, Pieces
Composed (pg. 26) – Wrote, created.
Moral (pg. 26) – Following the rules of how to treat people right.
Exclusively (pg. 26) – Only.
Posterity (pg. 26) – For the people in the future to appreciate.
Obsolete (pg. 26) – Doesn’t work anymore.
Values (pg. 26) – Guiding ideas that help you get and keep the things that are important to you.
Legacy (pg. 26) – The important things and ideas that you leave behind when you die.
Exclusion (pg. 26) – To leave something out, to keep something out.
Insight (pg. 26) – To understand something.
Unflattering (pg. 26) – Ugly.
Pursue (pg. 27) – To chase something.
Framers (pg. 27) – The people who created the constitution.

Democracy (pg. 28) – The idea that people need to have a voice in the decisions of their government.
Republic (pg. 28) – The idea that people should vote for the leaders that make big decisions for them.
Economic (pg. 28) – The buying and selling of things with money.

Bicameral (pg. 29) – “Two Chambers.” In this case, the Senate and the House of Representatives.
Political Parties (pg. 29) A group of people who want to use the government to achieve their goals.
Suffrage (pg. 29) – The right to vote.
Proportioned (pg. 29) – Divided up.
Inhabitants (pg. 29) – The people who live in an area.
Deadlock (pg. 29) – When a process or argument can’t move forward because both sides refuse to move.
Dogfight (pg. 29) – Originally describes a fight between military planes in the sky. Can also describe a long, complicated argument.

Census (pg. 30) – Counting up how many people live in a country. The U.S. does this every 10 years.
Bureau (pg. 30) – Office, place where business happens.
Proportional (pg. 30) – Dividing something up so that more of the pile goes to the bigger area.
Minefield (pg. 30) – A dangerous place to walk, where one mistake can be dangerous or even deadly.

Decreed (pg. 31) – Announced.
Repugnant (pg. 31) – Gross, disgusting.
Empowering (pg. 31) – To give power to someone.

Constituents (pg. 32) – The people that an elected leader care for and represent.
Eligible (pg. 32) – Worthy, can be chosen.
Poughkeepsie (pg. 32) – A city in New York.
Public Office (pg. 33) – A job in the government that serves the people.

“Merit of Every Description” (pg. 33) – Everyone, no matter what job or how much education they have.

Radically (pg. 33) – Describes something that is far away from reality, a really big change.

Progressive (pg. 33) – Trying to make progress, to fix a problem in society.

Propertied (pg. 33) – People who own property, like land and a house.

Heredity (pg. 33) – When something is passed down by someone’s parents. Usually wealth or property.

Modest (pg. 33) – Humble, someone who doesn’t brag.

Resigns (pg. 33) – Quits a job.

Expelled (pg. 33) – Is fired from a job or kicked out of a group.

Appointed (pg. 33) – When someone in charge hires a person to do a job.

Represent (pg. 33) – To speak for someone else, to try and make the voices of your people heard.

Excluded (pg. 34) – Kept something out.

Terms (pg. 34) – Important details.

Staggered (pg. 34) – Spaced out.

Reactive (pg. 34) – When someone changes their behavior.

Committees (pg. 34)

Filibusters (pg. 34) – Talking for a long time on the floor of the senate to make people see how much you oppose a bill & what it will do.

Points of Order (pg. 34) – A question in a formal debate or meeting about whether correct procedure is being followed.

Minority Leader (pg. 34) – Congress person or senator in charge of the political party that currently has the fewest members in the house or senate.

Majority Leader (pg. 34) – Congress person or senator in charge of the political party that currently has the fewest members in the house or senate.

Whips (pg. 34) – Congress people or senators who make sure that members of their political party behave the way that the leader wants them to vote.

Preside (pg. 34) – To be in control of something.

Pro Tempore (pg. 34) – Substitute, placeholder.

Clause (pg. 35) – Section of a document or contract.

Impeachment (pg. 35) – Charging an elected leader with a crime. This could lead to them losing their job.

Breach (pg. 35) – A break, a hole.

Treason (pg. 35) – Helping an enemy to hurt your country.

Bribery (pg. 35) – Paying someone secretly & illegally to do something sneaky for you.

“High Crimes and Misdemeanors” (pg. 35) – When someone in a position of authority is accused of breaking the law and/or abusing power.

Entails (pg. 35) – What something means, the details.

Convict (pg. 35) – To find someone guilty of a crime.

Acquit (pg. 35) – To find someone innocent or not guilty of a crime.

Uniform (pg. 35) – “All the same.”

Inefficient (pg. 35) – When something doesn’t work very well.

Tainted (pg. 35) – Not pure anymore, dirty, undesirable.

Stipulated (pg. 35) – Stated, made clear.
**Hijacking** (pg. 36) – Taking something over when the people involved don’t want you to.

**Legislators** (pg. 36) – People who make laws, Congress people & senators.

**Accessible** (pg. 36) – Something that you can get to or catch.

**Adjourn** (pg. 37) – To end a meeting and leave.

**Summons** (pg. 37) – A legal paper that makes you go to court for a court case.

**Immunity** (pg. 38) – Can’t be arrested for a crime.

**Bars** (pg. 38) – To keep something away.

**Operations** (pg. 38) – The things that people do.

**Enact** (pg. 38) – To make a law happen.

**Repeal** (pg. 38) – To destroy a law.

**Originate** (pg. 38) – Start.

**Lengthy** (pg. 39) – Long.

**Bill** (pg. 40) – A suggestion for a law that the legislative branch works on.

**Yea** (pg. 40) – “Yes.”

**Nay** (pg. 40) – “No.”

**“Back to the Drawing Board”** (pg. 41) – Start over.

**Predated** (pg. 41) – Came before.

**Tariffs** (pg. 42) – Money that other countries have to pay you if they want to sell things in your country.

**Regulate** (pg. 42) – Control.

**Commerce** (pg. 42) – The trading of things.

**“Gray Area”** (pg. 42) – When it isn’t clear how right or wrong something is.

**Broad** (pg. 42) – Not very focused, spread out over a wide area.

**Imposing** (pg. 43) – Placing something on top of someone.

**Steroids** (pg. 43) – Illegal drugs that make athletes faster or stronger but hurt their health.

**Bankruptcy** (pg. 43) – When someone runs out of money. Sometimes the government can help you get back on your feet.

**Counterfeiter**s (pg. 43) – People who make fake money and try to spend it like it is real. This is a very serious crime that can lead to 20 years in prison.

**“Pieces of Eight”** (pg. 44) – A phrase that pirates used to use when talking about money.

**Exploit** (pg. 44) – To use someone unfairly, taking advantage of someone’s talent or kindness.

**Enforces** (pg. 44) – Punishes people when they break the law.

**Piracy** (pg. 44) – Stealing.

**Imposing** (pg. 44) – To make someone do what you want.

**High Seas** (pg. 44) – Ocean waters that are so far away from shore that they don’t belong to any country.
Formal (pg. 45) – Official, recognized by the government.

Resolution (pg. 46) – A statement that congress votes to pass.
Prosecution (pg. 46) – The way that something is run, to operate something.

Assert (pg. 47) – To make someone listen to you by doing something.
Accounting (pg. 47) – The counting of how money is earned and spent.
Inherited (pg. 47) – When you are given something by the people who were born before you.
Jurisdiction (pg. 47) – When the government is given to right to control a geographic area (like a city, a state.)
Surveying (pg. 47) – To look at a piece of land and plan how it can be used.

Anticipated (pg. 48) – Saw something coming in the future.
Fulfill (pg. 48) – To complete something like a promise or a mission.
“Uphill Battle” (pg. 48) – To struggle with something that is very hard to defeat.

Branded (pg. 49) – To be publically called something, usually something bad.

Suspended (pg. 50) – To put something aside for a while.
Agitators (pg. 50) – People who are causing trouble.
Seceding (pg. 50) – Leaving a group.
Attainder (pg. 50) – When someone loses all of their rights.

Unambiguous (pg. 51) – Clear, easy to understand.
Nobility (pg. 51) – A group of wealthy, privileged people.
Tribute (pg. 51) – Showing someone respect by giving them something.
Sophisticated (pg. 51) – Classy, elegant.
Politics (pg. 51) – Serving the people and solving problems.
Abolishing (pg. 51) – To get rid of something.

Treaties (pg. 52) – Agreements.

Residing (pg. 53) – To live in a place.
Execute (pg. 53) – To get something done.
Engage (pg. 53) – To talk to someone.
Wielding (pg. 53) – To use something like a weapon or a tool.
Override (pg. 53) – When Congress passes a bill into a law even though the president tried to stop it.
Obligated (pg. 53) – Forced.
“Mob Rule” (pg. 54) – When a large group of irresponsible people are in charge and make bad decisions.
Turbulence (pg. 54) – Hard times.
Contention (pg. 54) – When people disagree, sometimes violently.
Reputation (pg. 54) – What people say about you when you’re not around.
Impractical (pg. 54) – When something isn’t a smart idea because it isn’t the best way to achieve a goal.

Procedure (pg. 55) – A way that something is done.

Arrangement (pg. 56) - A way that something is done (similar to Procedure.)

Rubber-Stamp (pg. 57) – To do what you are told to do without questioning it or changing it.
Faithless Electors (pg. 57) – Electors that don’t vote the same way that the people of their state did.
Convicted (pg. 61) – Found guilty of a crime.
Controversial (pg. 61) – Something that many people disagree about.
Confederate (pg. 61) – This was the group of people that tried to leave the United States during the Civil War.
Successor (pg. 61) – Someone who comes after another (Gerald Ford was the successor to Richard Nixon.)
Iran-Contra Scandal (pg. 61) – A big crime during the 80’s when people who worked for President Reagan sold weapons to bad people in a country called Iran and then gave the money they made to other bad people in a country called Nicaragua.
Evasion (pg. 61) – To avoid something.

Ratified (pg. 62) – To make something official.

Ambassador (pg. 63) – A person who the president trusts that is sent to live in another country. Their job is to help the United States get along with that country.
Crucial (pg. 63) – Very, very important.

Express (pg. 64) – To say something clearly.
Custom (pg. 64) – Tradition, something that’s been done before.
Manifestations (pg. 64) – The way that something appears, how you see something.
Cordiality (pg. 64) – Friendliness.
Foreshadowing (pg. 64) – To see signs of something coming.
Compelling (pg. 64) – Forcing someone to do something.
Adjourning (pg. 64) – Ending a meeting and leaving.
Judiciary (pg. 65) – The court system and its judges.
Arise (pg. 65) – To come up, when something happens.
Apply (pg. 65) – To use.
Interpret (pg. 65) – To decide what something is trying to say.
Insure (pg. 65) – To make sure.
Imperative (pg. 65) – Important.

Disorderly (pg. 66) – When things are in chaos and hard to control.
Anarchy (pg. 66) – When no one is in charge, no government to help people or make them behave.
Mythological (pg. 66) – Make-believe, a fictional character in a story.
Associate (pg. 66) – An equal partner.

Smuggling (pg. 67) – To sneak something that’s illegal into or out of a place.
Copyright/Patent (pg. 67) – When somebody has a great idea or invention, they can get protection from the government so no one can steal it away from them.
Infringement (pg. 67) – To go too far, to violate someone’s rights.
Liability (pg. 67) – To be responsible for something.
Summons (pg. 67) – When someone has to come to court to talk about a possible crime or disagreement.
“Prior to” (pg. 69) – Before, When something happened earlier.
Democratic-Republican Party (pg. 69) – Early political party that didn’t like the national government to have too much power.
Federalist Party (pg. 69) - Early political party that believed a strong national government was the best way to keep people safe and free.
Appellate (pg. 71) – A court that only listens to cases that another court has already decided on. They are there to make sure that the right decision was made because sometimes it’s not.
Public Ministers (pg. 71) – People who work for the government and make life better for citizens.
Consuls (pg. 71) – Someone who tries to guide the government in a good direction.
Instance (pg. 71) – Example.

Implement (pg. 72) – To make something happen.
Vague (pg. 72) – When it’s not very clear what something means.
Constitutionality (pg. 72) – Whether or not a law can exist under the Constitution.
Entities (pg. 72) – People or groups.
Opposing (pg. 73) – To be against something.
Originalists (pg. 73) – People who look back to when something was originally created to try and understand it.
Heinous (pg. 73) – Very terrible.
Arms (pg. 73) – Guns.
Espionage (pg. 73) – Spying on people.
Sabotage (pg. 73) – Breaking things in secret so that they fail the people that need them.
Confessing (pg. 73) – Admitting that you committed a crime or did something bad.
Testimony (pg. 73) – An important story told by someone, usually to a judge.
Criticized (pg. 73) – To have said bad things about someone or something.
Executed (pg. 73) – Killed.
Stags (pg. 73) – A male deer.

Relations (p. 74) – How two people or groups get along, like a relationship.
Cornerstone (p. 74) – Something that is really, really important.
Clause (p. 74) – A section of a contract or agreement.
Vagabonds (p. 74) – Someone who has no home, Roamer, Wanderer, Nomad.
Paupers (p. 74) – People who have no money.
Discriminates (p. 74) – Makes life harder for an entire group of people.

Privileges (p. 75) – Good things that people are allowed to do.
Immunities (p. 75) – When you are protected from something bad.
Tuition (p. 75) – The money that you have to pay if you want to go to school.
Fugitives (p. 75) – People who are running away from the police.
Extradition (p. 75) – Sending someone back to the place where they committed a crime.
Unamended (p. 75) – Unchanged.
Abolitionists (p. 75) – People who wanted to end slavery before and during the Civil War.
"Null and Void” (p. 75) – When something can’t affect you anymore.

Insular Areas (p. 76) – Places that are far away and hard to get to.
Territories (p. 76) – Places that belong to a country but don’t have the same rights as other lands.

Burros (p. 77) – A small donkey.
Radioactive Waste (p. 77) – When a nuclear power plant creates energy for everyone, it also makes very dangerous chemicals that can hurt people if it isn’t hidden away.
Binds (p. 77) – Ties you to something, makes you do something.
Domestic (p. 77) – Your home or the country you live in.
Uprisings (p. 77) – Times when people try to destroy or overthrow their government.
Marshalls (p. 77) – Another word for a high-ranking police officer.
Federalized (p. 77) – When something is taken over by the national government.
Proclaims (p. 77) – Announces.
Dictatorship (p. 77) – A leader that rules all alone and doesn’t let people have a say in what the country does.
Amending (p. 78) – Changing.
Financing (p. 78) – Borrowing money in order to pay for something.
Terms (p. 78) – The details of an agreement.

Exclusively (p. 79) – Only.

Supermajority (p. 80) – When a lot more than 50% of people agree on something. For congress, this usually means 2/3rds of them agree on something.
Bypass (p. 80) – To go around someone or something.
Conventions (p. 80) – A meeting where people try to accomplish something important.
Legislatures (p. 80) – The group of people that make the laws for a state or a country.

Compromise (p. 81) – When two people or groups disagree, this is the agreement they make that gives everybody at least a little of what they want.
Establish (p. 81) – To create something that is meant to last for a while.
Institution (p. 81) – A group of people who are trying to complete a mission.
Incurred (p. 81) – Gained.
Supreme (p. 81) – Above everyone else, the most important.
Trumped (p. 81) – Defeated.
Rival (p. 82) – People or groups that compete with you.
Plagued (p. 82) – To follow someone and make trouble for them.
Mandates (p. 82) – Rules that you have to follow.
“Religious Test” (p. 82) – The idea that you have to belong to a certain religion in order to have a job. This is generally not OK in the United States.
Unanimously (p. 82) – When everyone agrees on something.

Wringing (p. 83) – To wrestle or fight.
Bargaining (p. 83) – To make a deal with someone.

Readied (p. 84) – To get ready.
Grovel (p. 84) – To beg someone.
Acrimony (p. 84) – A really bad fight.
Soured (p. 84) – To start to hate or dislike something.
Colleagues (p. 84) – The people that someone works with.
Mortified (p. 84) – Really upset.
Posterity (p. 84) – All of the people that will come later, what will be written down in history.
Insurgents (p. 84) – People who want to fight the government.
Sincerest (p. 84) – The people who are the most honest and excited about something.
Inviolable (p. 84) – Something or someone that can’t be touched.
Abomination (p. 84) – Something that makes people afraid and angry.
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Inviolable (p. 84) – Something or someone that can’t be touched.
Abomination (p. 84) – Something that makes people afraid and angry.
Tyrant (p. 84) – A ruler that doesn’t care what the people think.
Aristocratic (p. 84) – Someone who like to be wealthier and more important than most people.
Publius (p. 84) – “Man of the Public.” This was a name that Federalist leaders used when writing letters to newspapers so that no one would know it was them.
Intellect (p. 84) – Smartness, intelligence.
Persuasion (p. 84) – Getting people to want the same things as you.
Guise (p. 84) – Another word for disguise, costume.
Persona (p. 84) – Calling yourself by another name so that you can do things that you normally couldn’t do.
Utmost (p. 84) – The most.
Furnished (p. 84) – When you give something.
Declaration of Rights (p. 84) – An announcement of the things that the government is not allowed to do to people.

Foremost (p. 85) – The thing that is in front, the most important thing.
Sovereignty (p. 85) – When no one can tell you what to do.
Deliberate (p. 85) – To talk about something until you agree.
Antireligious (p. 85) – To want to destroy a religion.
Resented (p. 85) – To dislike something.
Pagans (p. 85) – People who don’t believe in a major religion and instead worship nature or an unusual family of gods.
Deists (p. 85) – People who believe in a god, but argue that this god is not trying to change anything about the world but is instead watching it to see what happens.
Mahometans (p. 85) – A very old word that is used to describe Muslims. This word is not used anymore.
Obtain (p. 85) – To get something.
Authorized (p. 85) – Allowed.
Coalition (p. 85) – Group of people that work together towards a goal.
Drones (p. 85) – Someone or something that only does what they are told.
Impudence (p. 85) – Not being respectful.
Zeal (p. 85) – To be really, really excited about something.
Dominate (p. 85) – To control someone and have them respect you.
Suspicious (p. 85) – To think that someone wants to do something bad to you.
Vividly (p. 86) – Clearly.
Imminent (p. 86) – Right now.
Feeble (p. 86) – Weak.
League (p. 86) – A group of people.
Gradually (p. 86) – Slowly.
Entangled (p. 86) – To get caught up in something.
Pernicious (p. 86) – Evil.
Labyrinths (p. 86) – Mazes.
Bloodshed (p. 86) – When people are violent and it leads to other people getting hurt or killed.
Infinity (p. 86) – Something that goes on forever without an end.
Tumultuous (p. 86) – Something that causes big trouble.
Commonwealths (p. 86) – Another word for a state.
Wretched (p. 86) – Gross, disgusting.
Unceasing (p. 86) – Something that never ends.
Discord (p. 86) – When people don’t get along with each other.
Pivotal (p. 86) – Really, really important.
Diverse (p. 86) – A large group of people who are really different from each other but still get along.
Distinct (p. 86) – Easy to see, something that is very different.
Sphere (p. 86) – The area that you control.
Probable (p. 86) – Likely to happen.

Raged (p. 87) – To have been angry about something and resisted it.
Bitter (p. 87) – To be angry and sad about something.
Linchpin (p. 87) – A really important piece of something.
Echoed (p. 87) – To repeat something that someone else said before.
“Bill of Rights” (p. 87) – A list of things that the government is not allowed to do to you.
Entitled (p. 87) – When you are allowed to have or do something.
Just (p. 87) – A person or group that does the right thing.

Voluntarily (p. 88) – Doing something when no one is forcing you to do it.
Restrains (p. 88) – Holds back, keeps contained.
Reasserts (p. 88) – Reminds people about something important.
Trial by Jury (p. 88) – When citizens get into a group and decide whether someone is guilty or innocent.
Oppression (p. 88) – To hold someone down, to keep them from having the rights and privileges that they are supposed to have.
Press (p. 89) – People who report the news.
Assembly (p. 89) – People coming together in a group.
Petition (p. 89) – To ask the government for something.
Spectrum (p. 89) – All of the different types of people that could belong to a group, just like there is a whole spectrum of colors.
Jehovah’s Witnesses (p. 89) – A religious group.
Pamphlets (p. 90) – Papers with important information that are given out to the public.

Viciously (p. 90) – Mean and nasty.

Inflammatory (p. 90) – When someone does something that is supposed to make you mad.

Incite (p. 90) – To make something happen.

Defamatory (p. 90) – Something that makes someone look bad.

Malicious (p. 90) – Something that is evil and meant to hurt someone.

Provoke (p. 90) – To try and make someone come after you.

Indecency (p. 90) – Behaving in a way that upsets people.

Obscenity (p. 90) – An offensive behavior.

Pornography (p. 90) – Media that shows sex or makes people think about sex.

Unenforced (p. 91) – When no one is making the people do something they are supposed to do.

Incorporate (p. 91) – To bring a group of people or businesses together.

Symbolic Speech (p. 91) – When someone’s actions or words are meant to say something important.

Political Speech (p. 91) – When someone’s actions or words say something about the way the country is run.

Notions (p. 91) – Ideas.

Morality (p. 91) – Telling the difference between right and wrong.

Robust (p. 91) – Strong and bold.

Respecting (p. 92) – Talking about, affecting.

Alter (p. 92) – Change.

Polygamy (p. 92) – Marrying more than one person at once.

Conscientious Objector (p. 92) – Someone whose sense of right and wrong tells them that they can’t go fight in a war.

Exemption (p. 92) – Not having to do something.

Conscience (p. 93) – The voice in your head that tells you when something is wrong.

Ideals (p. 93) – The rules that, if you follow them, will make life better.

Strove (p. 93) – Tried.

Militia (p. 93) – Group of volunteers that will come fight or help in an emergency.

Vigilantes (p. 93) – People who don’t respect the law and commit crimes.

Vested (p. 93) – Very dedicated.

Mercenaries (p. 93) – People who will fight like soldiers in exchange for money.

Sought (p. 94) – Went after.

Well Regulated (p. 94) – Controlled by rules and a clear authority.

Infringed (p. 94) – To break someone’s privacy or trust.

Certifies (p. 94) – Officially states.

Legitimate (p. 94) – Official.

Bulwark (p. 94) – Protection.

Heyday (p. 94) – A time in the past when something was more important.

Crucial (p. 94) – Really, really important.

Enroll In (p. 94) – To join a group.

Ordinances (p. 94) – Laws.
Wilderness (p. 96) – The woods, the great outdoors.
Accommodated/Quartered (p. 96) – To let someone stay in your house.
In Their Midst (p. 96) – To be in a group of people.
Legacy (p. 96) – The effects of the things that you do.

Emphasis (p. 97) – Making it clear that something is really important.
Intrusion (p. 97) – To go somewhere that you don’t belong.
Effects (p. 97) – The things that belong to us.
Seizures (p. 97) – Taking something away.

Writs (p. 98) – An order.
Contraband (p. 98) – Illegal things that you are not supposed to have.
Probable Cause (p. 98) – When police have seen enough to believe that a crime is being committed.

Narrowed (p. 99) – To reduce the number of options.
Evaluated (p. 99) – Judged.
Invoice (p. 99) – A paper that someone fills out when they are ordering something from a business.
Merit (p. 99) – Deserve.

Stricken (p. 100) – Removed.
Endeavor (p. 100) – Effort.
Reversed (p. 100) – To replace something with its opposite.
Inadmissible (p. 100) – Won’t be allowed.
Deter (p. 100) – Prevent.
Misconduct (p. 100) – Doing something wrong.
Eavesdropping (p. 100) – Listening to someone’s conversation without them knowing.
Conduct (p. 100) – The way you behave.

Admissible (p. 101) – When something can be used as evidence in court.
Warrant (p. 101) – A signed paper from a judge that allows police to search a property or person for evidence of a crime.
Applied (p. 101) – Used on.

Proceedings (p. 102) – The steps that a government goes through to put a person on trial.

Sinister (p. 103) – Evil, Mean.
Harass (p. 103) – To bother someone and make them miserable.
Unfounded (p. 103) – When there is no evidence for something.
Fallacious (p. 103) – Misleading.
Capital Crimes (p. 103) – Serious crimes that might lead to years in jail or, in some cases, death.
“Public Danger” (p. 103) – Times when citizens are in a lot of danger.
Account (p. 104) – To talk about one’s experiences.
Burden of Proof (p. 104) – Showing, with no doubt, that someone committed a crime.
Counsel (p. 104) – Lawyer.
Decline (p. 104) – Going down, ending.
Testify (p. 104) – Telling your story to a judge and jury about what you experienced.
Psychological Coercion (p. 104) – Making people really sad, mad, or scared so that they will do what you want.

Deprived (p. 105) – To have something taken away.
Due Process (p. 105) – Following the steps to make sure someone has a fair trial.
Substantive (p. 105) – When something is important and must be given attention.
Heeded (p. 105) – Paid attention to.
Minimum Wage (p. 105) – In the United States, there is an amount that most bosses have to pay for the work of their employees. They can’t pay less than the legal amount (For example: $10 per hour of work.)
Limitations (p. 105) – The things that a person or group cannot do.

Turned the Tide (p. 106) – To change the way that something is going.
Menace (p. 106) – Threaten.
Regulation (p. 106) – Rule.
Compensate (p. 106) – Pay.
Equivalent (p. 106) – An equal amount.
Deemed (p. 106) – Decided to be.
Diminishes (p. 106) – Makes something smaller.

Grueling (p. 107) – Something that is very difficult and wears you down.
Barons (p. 107) – Wealthy people who own a large area full of people.
Pertain (p. 107) – To talk about.
Presumed (p. 107) – Assuming that something is true.
Languishing (p. 107) – To spend a long time suffering.
Malice (p. 107) – To want to hurt someone or something.
Spectators (p. 107) – People who are watching something.

Impartial (p. 108) – Someone who isn’t rooting for either side in a court case.
Essential (p. 108) – Really, really important.
Predisposed (p. 108) – To have a belief that might affect what you think of a court case.
Overzealous (p. 108) – To be too excited to do something. This might lead to a mistake.
Attorney (p. 108) – Lawyer.
Death Sentence (p. 108) – To be killed by the government for a very serious crime.
Observe (p. 108) – To watch.
Sparking (p. 109) – Starting.
Outrageously (p. 109) – Unbelievably, Something that causes alarm or disgust.
Inadequate (p. 109) – Something that isn’t good enough.
Misdemeanors (p. 109) – Minor crimes that usually don’t lead a person to go to jail.
Accused (p. 109) – The person that is on trial for a crime they might have committed.
Waive (p. 109) – To let someone break a rule without being punished.
Venue (p. 109) – A place where something happens.
Plea Bargain (p. 109) – An agreement that accused people make with a judge. The accused can sometimes say that they are guilty of a crime without a trial and in exchange their punishment is less than it would be otherwise.

Monetary Relief (p. 110) – Money that someone gets because someone hurt them.
Corporate Law (p. 110) – The laws that affect businesses and what they are allowed to do.
Probate (p. 110) – The law that controls who gets someone’s belongings after they pass away.

Era (p. 111) – A time in history.
Enshrined (p. 111) – To recognize that something is very important and should last a long time.
Checks (p. 111) – Limits.

Reins In (p. 112) – To keep someone or something from doing what they are not supposed to do.
Defendant (p. 112) – Another word for accused. The person being put on trial.
Verdicts (p. 112) – Decisions that a court makes.
Proportionate (p. 112) – A fair size. For the courts, a proportionate punishment fits the crime.
Prohibition (p. 112) – Making something illegal.
Excessive (p. 112) – Too much or too many of something.
Imposed (p. 112) – To make something happen.

Precedent (p. 113) – A decision that has been made before.
Wanton (p. 113) – Crazy, not fair.
Infliction (p. 113) – To take something bad and give it to another person who doesn’t want it.
Disproportioned (p. 113) – Not the correct size, too big or too small.
Offenses (p. 113) – Crimes.

Prescribed (p. 114) – To order, to bring about.
Activists (p. 114) – People who work hard to make a big change in society.
Mitigating Circumstances (p. 114) – Facts that make a crime more understandable. (For example, when you hurt this person, were they attacking you?)
Leeches (p. 114) – Little animals that suck blood. Doctors used to use them to clean wounds of people who got hurt.
Enumeration (p. 114) – The way that something is written down.
Construed (p. 114) – Interpreted, The meaning that you see in something.
Disparage (p. 114) – To say bad things about someone.
Retained (p. 114) – Kept.
Unenumerated (p. 115) – Truths that aren’t written down but people know that they exist anyway.

Autocrats (p. 115) – People who want to rule over people without letting them vote or have rights.

Despots (p. 115) – Another word for Autocrats.

Landmark (p. 115) – An important decision by the court that changes the country.

Contraceptives (p. 116) – An item or type of medicine that keeps a woman from getting pregnant.

Advocate (p. 116) – Someone who works hard to achieve a goal.

Antiabortion (p. 116) – Describes someone who wants to stop women from choosing to end their pregnancies.

Statutes (p. 116) – Rules.

Homosexual (p. 116) – People who are attracted to members of their own gender (For example, men who are attracted to men or women who are attracted to women.)

Confines (p. 116) – Limitations.

Dignity (p. 116) – The basic respect that someone deserves from other people.

Alternate (p. 116) – Different, Other.

Interpretations (p. 116) – Different ways that we can understand something.

Vocally (p. 116) – In a way that people can hear.

Reiterates (p. 117) – To say something again so that you are understood clearly.

Conspiracy (p. 117) – When a group of people make a secret plan to do something.

Broad (p. 117) – Large and wide.

Implies (p. 117) – To make something understood without saying it out loud.

Expressly Delegated (p. 117) – To clearly and firmly give an amount of power to someone.

Latitude (p. 117) – Wiggle room, space to breathe.

Ratification (p. 118) – To make something official.

Race to the Bottom (p. 118) – Competing to see who can treat their people the worst.

Sue (p. 119) – To ask a court for a chance to receive money from someone who hurt you or to stop someone from doing something.

Specified (p. 120) – To give the details of something.

Missouri Compromise (p. 120) – A deal made in 1820 that allowed southern states to have slavery. This delayed, but did not prevent, the Civil War.

Discord (p. 121) – When people have a disagreement that might lead to violence.

Ballot (p. 121) – The official list of people you can vote for in an election.

Livid (p. 121) – Very, very upset.

Secede (p. 121) – To leave a country and start your own.

Emancipation Proclamation (p. 121) – An announcement from President Lincoln during the Civil War that freed the slaves in the south.

Constitute (p. 121) – Make.
Involuntary (p. 122) – When you are required to do something and have no choice.
Counterpunch (p. 122) – After being injured, you injure someone back in response.
Retroactively (p. 122) – Something that affects things that happened in the past.

Withheld (p. 123) – To keep something for yourself.

Confederacy (p. 124) – The southern states that tried to secede from the United States during the Civil War.
Reparations (p. 124) – Payment that tries to make up for something bad that you did to someone.
Bestowed (p. 124) – Gave.

Poll Taxes (p. 125) – A fee that someone had to pay if they want to vote. This was used as an excuse to keep black Americans from voting and is definitely not OK.
Literacy Tests (p. 125) – A reading test that was given to black Americans that they had to pass in order to vote. These test were often very unfair and impossible to pass.
Cooked-Up (p. 125) – When something is made as an excuse, something that is unfair.
Plantations (p. 125) – Properties in the south where slaves worked the land to benefit a white family of slave owners.
Spotty (p. 125) – Something that is incomplete or flawed.

Whittled Down (p. 126) – Reduced, Made smaller.
Running...Into the Ground (p. 126) – To use something until it ends or is destroyed.
Intercourse (p. 126) – Talking to and getting along with people.
Upholding (p. 126) – When a court agrees with a decision that was made earlier.
Segregation (p. 126) – To keep groups of people apart from one another.
Corruption (p. 126) – Using your power to commit crimes and illegally benefit yourself.
Immigration (p. 126) – When people leave their home to go live in another country.
Reform (p. 126) – Changes that try to fix problems.
Industrial (p. 126) – A word to describe businesses that make and sell things.
Powerhouse (p. 126) – Something that is very strong.

Tax (p. 127) – A fee that you pay the government in exchange for the benefits you receive.
Income (p. 127) – Money that you make from working a job, selling a product, or taxing your citizens.
Contradicted (p. 127) – Disagreed with.
Corporations (p. 127) – Groups of people that come together to do business.
On the Wane (p. 127) – Growing weaker.
Temperance (p. 128) – To keep from doing too much of something bad.
Fanatical (p. 128) – To want something so badly that you’ll risk just about anything including your health and safety.
Composed (p. 128) – To plan out and then create something.
Suffrage (p. 129) – The right to vote.
Enfranchising (p. 129) – Giving someone the right to vote.
Uniform (p. 129) – When something is the same for everyone.
Lame Duck (p. 130) – Someone who holds a public office but then loses their election. A lame duck still has to work at their job until their time is up.
Presidential Succession (p. 130) – The rules that say who becomes president if something bad happens to the current one.
Reign of Tears (p. 130) – A time of sadness.
Slums (p. 130) – Places where very poor people have to live because they can’t afford anything else.
Corncribs (p. 130) – A storage place for food.

Gangway (p. 131) – Get out of the way.
Bonanza (p. 131) – Something that makes you a lot of money.
Black Market (p. 131) – People buying and selling illegal things secretly.
Insanity (p. 131) – When people aren’t able to behave in a way that is sensible and good for themselves or others.
Compliance (p. 131) – Going along with what you are told to do.
Intoxicating (p. 131) – Something that gets you drunk or sick.
Premises (p. 131) – A place.

Rant (p. 132) – Talking for a long time about something that bothers you.

Lawsuits (p. 133) – When you sue someone because they harmed you or you need them to stop doing something.
Inherently (p. 133) – Part of something, Can’t be separated from the thing it belongs to.

Desegregate (p. 134) – To take people who used to be kept apart and bringing them together.
Instituted (p. 134) – Made something happen.
Abridge (p. 134) – To make something shorter or smaller.

Interstate (p. 135) – Something that happens between two or more states.
Assume (p. 135) – To take on.
Stroke (p. 135) – When blood doesn’t get to your brain for some reason. This can be fatal very quickly if it isn’t treated.
Incapacitation (p. 135) – When something keeps you from moving freely.
Vacancy (p. 135) – An opening, An empty space that someone can fill.
Clarified (p. 135) – To make something easier to understand.
Confirmation (p. 135) – When Congress approves a choice made by the president.
Acting President (p. 136) – Someone who does the job of the president for a little while.

Reconciled (p. 137) – To bring things together in a way that makes sense.
Raise (p. 138) – To get paid more money for doing your job.

Inception (p. 139) – Beginning, The moment when something is created.
Encompasses (p. 139) – Surrounds, Includes.

At Present (p. 140) – Right now.
Inevitably (p. 140) – Something that can’t be stopped or prevented.
Prejudices (p. 140) – Strong ideas and opinions that you have.
Embody (p. 140) – Is a really important part of something.
Comprise (p. 140) – Make.
Interests (p. 140) – The things that people want to have and do.
Accommodating (p. 140) – Working hard to include someone or something.
Occasioning (p. 140) – Coming across something every so often.

Constitutional Literacy (p. 141) – Understanding the constitution clearly.
Energetically (p. 141) – Being excited and passionate about something.
Ignorant (p. 141) – Not knowing something.
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Imagine that our class is on a cruise around the world (that’d be a nice field trip, right?) and a storm wrecks our ship (Oops, not so nice!) Now we are all stuck on a remote island with no other people, no working technology, and no way to contact help.

Write down your thoughts about the following questions. We’ll be discussing your thoughts as a class.

1.) List: What are the things that we all need in order to stay alive and safe?

2.) How are we going to make big decisions about what the group will do?

3.) List: What rules will we need to have on this island for our society to work?

4.) How will we treat people who break those rules?

Let’s see if we can agree on the answers to these four questions!
INTRO. ACTIVITY: WHY THE CONSTITUTION MATTERS

If it was difficult to agree on how to run our little island society, imagine how hard it was to figure out a way to run a whole country of people with different interests and identities.

The United States Constitution is a very carefully crafted document that spells out how our government should be run. It doesn’t solve every problem we’ve faced, but it does help guide us in building our own solutions like a set of blueprints guides architects on how to build a house.
ORGANIZE YOUR THOUGHTS: THE U.S. CONSTITUTION GRAPHIC NOVEL

Read Pgs. __________through__________ and fill in the chart below for each page.

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<th>Pg. # ________</th>
<th>Important Terms</th>
<th>What did you learn from this page?</th>
<th>What is still confusing?</th>
</tr>
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</table>
MAJOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1.) Pgs. 2-5 - Topic: The Founding Fathers & The People (Comic Skills Practice)

Examine the “splash panels” found on pgs. 2-3 and pgs. 4-5.

What can we learn about:
   • The experience of creating the constitution.
   • The Founding Fathers who created the constitution.
   • The people that the constitution includes.

2.) Pgs. 6-14 – Topic: The Revolution

How did the philosophy behind the American Revolution change the way that people thought about government? What problems emerged from an English government that didn’t worry about the will of its colonists?

3.) Pgs. 15-17 – Topic: The Articles of Confederation

Based on the evidence provided, what were the reasons that the government under the Articles was failing?

4.) Pgs. 18-19 – Topic: Separation of Powers

Look at the imagery of the crown being destroyed. What was the purpose of transforming it into multiple objects?

5.) Pg. 20 – Topic: Checks and Balances

In your opinion, why would the three branches of government be represented by three different objects, the hammer, pen, & scale?

6.) Pg. 23 – Topic: The Written Constitution

The author suggests that the founding fathers had a problem with the English Constitution because it had never been written down on paper.

When a list of rules isn’t clearly written down, why is that bad for:
   • The people in charge?
   • The people being ruled?

7.) Pg. 25 – Topic: The Preamble

The Preamble to the constitution is an introduction. It explains why the document exists and what it’s supposed to do.

How does a country:
   • Establish Justice
   • Insure Domestic Tranquility
   • Provide for the Common Defense
   • Promote the General Welfare
   • Secure the Blessings of Liberty

8.) Pgs. 27-28 – Topic: Democracy vs. Republic

In a country of over 300 million people, why might a Republic work better than a Democracy?

9.) Pgs. 29-30 – Topic: The Great Compromise

What caused the tension between “big” states and “small” states? How does the Great Compromise fix that tension?

10.) Pgs. 30-31 – Topic: The Three-Fifths Compromise

Why was the Three/Fifths Compromise a short-term “victory” but ultimately a disaster?

11.) Pg. 32 – Topic: Requirements to Hold Office

Take a look at the requirements to run for the House of Representatives and the Senate.

   • Which of the requirements, if any, are right where they should be?
   • Which of the requirements, if any, should be changed? If so, how?
12.) Pg. 36 – Topic: Lame Ducks
After a sitting senator, congressperson or president loses reelection, how might being a Lame Duck affect their behavior in office?

13.) Pgs. 45-46 – Topic: Declaring War
Why do you think presidents would take the United States into an armed conflict with another country without asking congress to declare war?

14.) Pg. 48 – Topic: The Elastic Clause
Reading the elastic clause, why would it make people nervous about losing their freedoms?

15.) Pgs. 49-50 – Topic: Habeas Corpus
Was President Lincoln right? Should presidents be able to suspend Habeas Corpus during wartime?

16.) Pgs. 53-59 – Topic: The Electoral College
What are the advantages of the Electoral College?
What are the disadvantages of the Electoral College?
Is the Electoral College worth its cost? Why or why not?

17.) Pg. 67 – Topic: Criminal vs. Civil Cases
From what you can tell, make an educated guess: what are the differences between criminal and civil trials?

18.) Pgs. 69-70 – Topic: Marbury vs. Madison
Who is right in this situation? Should the commission have been delivered?

19.) Pg. 73 – Topic: Treason
Read through the brief section on “Treason.”
What, in your opinion, would make someone a traitor to their country?

20.) Pg. 76 – Topic: Territories
Congress makes laws that control territories, but those territories don’t have any influence or voting power. Some of those territories have voted overwhelmingly in local elections that they would like to become full-fledged states.

Should the United States make territories like Puerto Rico into states? Why or why not?

21.) Pgs. 78-81 – Topic: Amending the Constitution
From your life experiences, are there any rights that you think should be added to the constitution?

22.) Pg. 81 – Topic: The Supremacy Clause
Whenever a state law conflicts with a federal law, the state law is destroyed. Why do you think the founders decided to make federal government laws supreme over that of the fifty states?

23.) Pgs. 85-86 – Topic: Publius
Why would three of the people who wrote the constitution write letters under the anonymous name “Publius” to try and get it passed?
INTRODUCTION TO THE BILL OF RIGHTS: SMART PHONES

Most (maybe all) smart phones know where you’ve been...
Here’s how to see the places you visit on an iPhone from 2015. Your steps might be similar:

1.) Why would a company install something like this in your phone? __________________________________________________________________________

2.) What good can come out of this? ____________________________________________________________________________________________

3.) What negative impact might this have? ________________________________________________________________________________________

4.) Would you turn this feature off or keep it on? ________________________________________________________________________________

Step 1  
Step 2  
Step 3  
Step 4  
Step 5  
Step 6  

1.) Why would a company install something like this in your phone? __________________________________________________________________________

2.) What good can come out of this? ____________________________________________________________________________________________

3.) What negative impact might this have? ________________________________________________________________________________________

4.) Would you turn this feature off or keep it on? ________________________________________________________________________________
Whether you agree with the Frequent Locations feature or not, it raises questions of privacy. How much of your personal life should the government have access to at any given moment?

The Constitution addresses many of the limits on our Government in the **Bill of Rights**, ten amendments (changes) that were made to make sure the people wouldn’t lose vital freedoms.

In the graphic novel, the amendments to the Bill of Rights are on the following pages:

- 1st Amendment... 89-93
- 2nd Amendment... 93-95
- 3rd Amendment... 96-97
- 4th Amendment... 97-101
- 5th Amendment... 102-106
- 6th Amendment... 107-109
- 7th Amendment... 110-112
- 8th Amendment... 112-114
- 9th Amendment... 114-116
- 10th Amendment... 117-118

You will be assigned an amendment. **In your notebook: Describe the protection that the Amendment gives to people in your own words.**

1.) If there are other people who share your amendment, **get together** with them & compare your answers about what your assigned amendment does.

2.) Together, come up with a **simple explanation of your amendment**, including an example of **what would happen without it**.

3.) Together, decide on a **simple stick figure illustration** that helps us remember your amendment later. Perhaps use the figures from some public bathrooms as a start. Your drawing will go on the board or on a poster. For example (13th Amendment: )
4.) Now that your illustrations are on display, we’ll be taking a tour of the room and making educated guesses about what we think the amendment does.

5.) Once we are finished, our groups will explain their amendments and we’ll see how close our guesses are.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendment #</th>
<th>What do I think it protects?</th>
<th>Did I miss any details?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
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<td>10th</td>
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</table>
**Bil OF RIGHTS**

**Activity:**

**Judicial Review** is the power of a court to decide if a law or decision by the government is constitutional. This power was established in the U.S. in the Supreme Court case *Marbury v. Madison*. If a court finds that a law or government action is unconstitutional, then it violates a rule in the Constitution and cannot exist.

---

**Read the scenarios listed below & use your knowledge of the Bill of Rights to answer.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A law is passed that makes it a crime to convince an angry mob of people to go burn someone’s house down.</td>
<td>Is this law constitutional? (Circle One)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. A law is passed that changes the minimum punishment for drug possession from 6 months in prison to 10 years.</td>
<td>Is this law constitutional? (Circle One)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A police officer pulls over a car for speeding, then searches the car for drugs after spotting a clean, empty glass pipe that could be used for drugs in the back seat.</td>
<td>Is this police action constitutional? (Circle One)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The federal (national) government was going to give some money to Indiana to help them pay for environmental protection, but decides not to because Indiana’s high pollution did not meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA.)</td>
<td>Is this federal action constitutional? (Circle One)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BILL OF RIGHTS  
ACTIVITY: JUDICIAL REVIEW

Read the scenarios listed below & use your knowledge of the Bill of Rights to answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. California passes a law that states “if a person wants to buy a gun, first they have to pass a test that proves that they are mentally healthy, not homicidal, and not suicidal.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is this law constitutional? (Circle One)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>If you answered “No,” which Amendment is responsible for killing this law?</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. A man is arrested for assault. The judge decides to skip the trial and put him right in jail.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is this legal action constitutional? (Circle One)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>If you answered “No,” which Amendment is responsible for killing this law?</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7. The police arrest a group of people walking around a neighborhood for handing out flyers which suggest that all people over the age of 40 need to be rounded up and killed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is this police action constitutional? (Circle One)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>If you answered “No,” which Amendment is responsible for killing this law?</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>8. A woman is arrested for murder. At the trial, the judge uses threats of a longer prison sentence to make the woman tell her story to the jury.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is this legal action constitutional? (Circle One)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>If you answered “No,” which Amendment is responsible for killing this law?</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9. A child is arrested for petting a dog in public. At his trial, the judge explains that although there is no law against petting dogs in public, the boy did not have the right to do it because it wasn’t specifically granted in the Constitution.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is this legal action constitutional? (Circle One)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>If you answered “No,” which Amendment is responsible for killing this law?</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10. A woman is convicted of armed robbery and is serving a prison sentence. While in prison, she works a job making license plates in exchange for a few cents an hour and the promise of a shortened sentence.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is this legal action constitutional? (Circle One)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>If you answered “No,” which Amendment is responsible for killing this law?</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. A law is passed that makes it a crime to convince an angry mob of people to go burn someone’s house down. **Is this law constitutional? Yes.** (Graphic novel pg. 90) The 1st Amendment says that inflammatory speech is not protected.

2. A law is passed that changes the minimum punishment for drug possession from 6 months in prison to 10 years. **Is this law constitutional? Yes.** Our country has dramatically increased prison sentences for drug crimes since the 1970’s. Suggesting that this law violates the 8th Amendment is a good guess, though!

3. A police officer pulls over a car for speeding, then searches the car for drugs after spotting a clean, empty glass pipe that could be used for drugs in the back seat. **Is this police action constitutional? Yes.** (Graphic novel pg. 99 & 101) The 4th Amendment does not protect the things that are in plain view OR in cars.

4. The federal (national) government was going to give some money to Indiana to help them pay for environmental protection, but decides not to because Indiana’s high pollution did not meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA.) **Is this federal action constitutional? Yes.** (Graphic novel pg. 46) Although the 10th Amendment reserves power to the states, Congress does have the “Power of the Purse” and can control how it spends federal money.

5. California passes a law that states “if a person wants to buy a gun, first they have to pass a test that proves that they are mentally healthy, not homicidal, and not suicidal.” **Is this law constitutional? Yes.** (Graphic novel pg. 95) 2nd Amendment. Government has the power to impose “fair qualifications.”

6. A man is arrested for assault. The judge decides to skip the trial and put him right in jail. **Is this legal action constitutional? No.** (Graphic novel pg. 105) The 5th Amendment requires due process for all defendants.

7. The police arrest a group of people walking around a neighborhood for handing out flyers which suggest that all people over the age of 40 need to be rounded up and killed. **Is this legal action constitutional? No.** (Graphic novel pg. 91) Under the 1st Amendment, political speech is protected (even if it is unusual or generally violent) as long as it doesn’t create imminent danger (See #1.)

8. A woman is arrested for murder. At the trial, the judge uses threats of a longer prison sentence to make the woman tell her story to the jury. **Is this legal action constitutional? No.** (Graphic novel pg. 104) The 5th Amendment prevents the government from forcing people to testify against themselves.

9. A child is arrested for petting a dog in public. At his trial, the judge explains that although there is no law against petting dogs in public, the boy did not have the right to do it because it wasn’t specifically granted in the Constitution. **Is this legal action constitutional? No.** (Graphic novel pg. 115) The 9th Amendment says that unenumerated rights exist.

10. A woman is convicted of armed robbery and is serving a prison sentence. While in prison, she works a job making license plates in exchange for a few cents an hour and the promise of a shortened sentence. **Is this legal action constitutional? Yes.** The 8th Amendment does not consider most labor to be “Cruel and Unusual.”
Later Amendments Activity: Radio Advertisement

Have your students create a radio advertisement to learn about the 11th - 26th amendments!

In the graphic novel, these amendments to the Bill of Rights are on the following pages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendment</th>
<th>Page(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11th Amendment</td>
<td>119</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Amendment</td>
<td>119-120</td>
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<td>13th Amendment</td>
<td>120-122</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th Amendment</td>
<td>122-124</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th Amendment</td>
<td>124-126</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th Amendment</td>
<td>126-127</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Amendment</td>
<td>127</td>
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<td>18th Amendment</td>
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<td>128-129</td>
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<td>130</td>
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<td>21st Amendment</td>
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<td>24th Amendment</td>
<td>133-135</td>
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<td>25th Amendment</td>
<td>135-136</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th Amendment</td>
<td>137-138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th Amendment</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.) Divide students into pairs & assign them one of the later amendments.

2.) Depending on your technology resources, either listen as a class or let students individually explore some classic radio advertisements at a website such as http://www.oldtimeradiofans.com/old_radio_commercials/.

3.) Have students create a radio advertisement of their own explaining the problem and the solution that their amendment offers.

4.) Depending on your technology resources, have students perform their radio advertisement for the class or have them record it.

5.) Provide transcripts of the radio advertisements to the class so they can easily take notes about the purpose of each one.

6.) Fill out a rubric for each student individually to promote teamwork.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0 POINTS</th>
<th>3 POINTS</th>
<th>5 POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Informative</strong></td>
<td>The ad provides no info. about the amendment or the problem it solves.</td>
<td>The ad provides clear info. about either the amendment or the problem it solves.</td>
<td>The ad provides clear info. about both the amendment and the problem it solves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stylistic</strong></td>
<td>The ad does not conform to the style of a classic radio ad.</td>
<td>The ad conforms to the style of a classic radio ad, to a limited extent.</td>
<td>The ad conforms well to the style of a classic radio ad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teamwork</strong></td>
<td>This participant did not contribute equally to the group.</td>
<td>This participant contributed to the group, but caused some difficulty.</td>
<td>This participant contributed fully, equally, and easily to the group.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL POINTS:** ____________ / 15

II.) Landmark Supreme Court Cases (Including Marbury vs. Madison) - http://landmarkcases.org/en/landmark/home

III.) Profiles of the U.S. Presidents - https://millercenter.org/president

IV.) An Introduction to Congress - https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/about-congress

V.) Democracy In America by Alexis De Tocqueville
   b. Part II - https://www.gutenberg.org/files/816/816-h/816-h.htm


VII.) The Living Room Candidate (Campaign Commercials of Modern U.S. Presidential candidates) - http://www.livingroomcandidate.org/

VIII.) The Redistricting Game (To help students understand congressional districts & Gerrymandering) - http://www.redistrictinggame.org/

IX.) Politics 1 (Up-to-date information about campaigns & elections) - http://www.politics1.com/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AUTHORS
Jason Nisavic
Igniting Imaginations.

POPCULTURECLASSROOM.ORG