

Bill of Rights in Action

Name: _____

Read through the first ten amendments of the Constitution on page 204 and 205 in your textbook and complete the chart below. This activity can be done in small groups or individually.

Amendment	Basic idea of what it means.
Amendment 1	
Amendment 2	
Amendment 3	
Amendment 4	
Amendment 5	
Amendment 6	
Amendment 7	
Amendment 8	
Amendment 9	
Amendment 10	

1. I was found guilty of stealing a French fry from off a boy's tray at lunch. The case was taken to court and I was sentenced to death.

Is this constitutional? _____

What Amendment? _____

2. Students at Seward Middle School hate their new geography teacher. They stage a demonstration outside the school to protest the amount of homework she gives and each student makes a personal speech expressing his/her feelings of hatred towards this teacher.

Can they do this? _____

What Amendment? _____

3. My friends and I want to set up a lemonade stand and sell lemonade during the Mount Marathon race. There is nowhere in the Constitution that says that I can do that.

Can I? _____

What Amendment? _____

4. Students at Seward High School can't get enough books to read at their local library because the demand for books is so great. Rioting and fighting over books has become such a problem that the U.S. armed forces sent out the National Guard to keep the peace. The soldiers in the National Guard need a place to stay.

Do you have to let them in? _____ What Amendment? _____

5. Students across the state of Alaska are enraged when the governor signed a law extending the school day to 10 hours a day, 6 days a week, 12 months a year. To show their anger they burn the Alaskan flag.

Is this legal? _____ What Amendment? _____

6. The state of Alaska decides to pass a law that requires all students across the state to attend a Christian church meeting once a week. If students neglect to attend this meeting, they will be suspended from school and will not graduate from high school.

Can the government pass laws like this? _____ What Amendment? _____

7. A new law is passed by Congress and the President that says guns will no longer be available for sale in America. All firearms are to be destroyed and all gun manufacturers must stop producing guns of any sort. Any citizen that currently owns a gun must turn it over to the government for complete and utter destruction.

Is this constitutional? _____ What Amendment? _____

8. If I'm accused of cheating on Mrs. Liljemark's history test and I'm taken to court, do I have to answer all the questions the lawyers ask me even if I think the answer I give might hurt my case? What if I really did cheat?

Do I have to say I did? _____ What Amendment? _____

9. I've been accused of stealing a history textbook from the classroom (along with a couple thousand dollars from the school safe) and have been put in jail. I've been waiting for my trial for 10 years now and when I'm finally given a trial it is a private trial, behind closed doors, with a jury that consists entirely of retired history teachers. The trial is to take place in Juneau even though I was accused of stealing the book in Seward. Furthermore, I have no lawyer, and the judge won't allow me to contact one.

Is this legal? _____ What Amendment? _____

10. I was accused of intentionally breaking my neighbor's leg because she made the cheerleader team and I didn't, and I had to go to court. I had a good lawyer, but the judge didn't like girls so he found me guilty and sentenced me to prison for life. There was no jury at my trial.

Is this constitutional? _____ What Amendment? _____

11. Police suspect students at Seward Middle School of possessing illegal drugs and firearms. Police have been watching and have targeted a few nameless students and visit the homes of these students on night, charging in and taking backpacks and personal belongings to search.

Is this legal? _____ What Amendment? _____