The Bill of Rights: Liberty, Evidence, and Due Process

First & Last Name: _____ Date: _____

CENTRAL QUESTION

How can rights protect unpopular people while allowing a community to function?

Learning objective

Analyze four source sets, evaluate evidence and limitations, and defend a civic judgment through interdisciplinary inquiry.

Demonstration of learning

Complete the daily evidence tasks, earn a score on 15 multiple choice items, and write a source based RACE response using the 19 point rubric.

Standards and task alignment

NJSLS Social Studies: 6.1.8.CivicsPI.3.b; 6.3.8.CivicsDP.2; 6.3.8.CivicsDP.3. Applied in daily analysis and the final civic judgment. NJSLS ELA (2023): RI.CR.6.1 (evidence), RI.CI.6.2 (central ideas), W.AW.6.1 (argument), SL.PE.6.1 (discussion). National CCSS: RH.6-8.1, RH.6-8.2, RH.6-8.7; WHST.6-8.1 and WHST.6-8.9. NJSLS / CCSS Math: 6.RP.A.3 (ratios and percent); Science, technology, arts, history, and civic participation are integrated through the named tasks; no additional science or arts code is claimed.

Five lesson sequence

Days 1 to 4: read, annotate, analyze, collaborate, and write. Day 5: 15 question assessment and extended RACE response. Each lesson is designed for 40 minutes; teacher notes provide timing and supports.

Academic vocabulary

civil liberty: freedom protected against government interference; petition: request for government action; due process: fair legal procedures; warrant: judicial authorization for a search or arrest; probable cause: legally sufficient basis to believe a crime or relevant evidence exists; incorporation: application of many Bill of Rights protections to states through the Fourteenth Amendment

Source integrity

Readings are original Ma’at instructional syntheses. Exact historical excerpts are marked. Classroom datasets and scenarios are labeled; they are not historical records or actual government budgets. Source references appear on page 13.

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DAY 1

Source A | Ten amendments, more than one kind of protection

Do Now

Why might listing several rights still leave a question about unlisted rights?

[1] The Bill of Rights consists of the first ten amendments, ratified in 1791. The First Amendment protects religious liberty, speech, press, peaceful assembly, and petition. The Second addresses the right to keep and bear arms. The Third concerns quartering soldiers in homes. The Fourth protects against unreasonable searches and seizures. These subjects constrain different government actions.

[2] The Fifth includes protections involving criminal accusations, double jeopardy, compelled self incrimination, due process, and compensation when private property is taken for public use. The Sixth addresses rights of criminal defendants, including counsel and a speedy public trial. The Seventh concerns jury trials in certain civil cases. The Eighth addresses excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel and unusual punishment.

[3] The Ninth states that enumerating rights does not deny other rights retained by the people. The Tenth addresses powers reserved to states or the people. The Bill of Rights originally constrained the national government. Through the Fourteenth Amendment and court decisions, many protections now also limit state and local government. Reading the text and its application together prevents oversimplification.

Annotation task: underline a central claim; box one civic term; mark one detail as evidence; add a question where evidence or authority needs clarification.

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