

Constitution Day

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Little Rock Central High School
National Historic Site



Constitution Day and Freedom Week

In commemoration of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787, Congress passed legislation in 2004 mandating that publicly funded educational institutions present a program focused on the U.S. Constitution each September 17, designating the date as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. In the last couple of weeks students have been introduced to school and classroom rules and individual teacher expectations, but how do you integrate the celebration of Constitution Day carefully into your curriculum when you may not be directly teaching that content right now? The following are ideas to help your students recognize the impact of the Constitution and what freedom really means.



Bell Ringers or Daily Openers

Use the Constitution Day and Freedom Week as the topic for the bell ringer for the week. As students enter the classroom distribute an index card with the question or have it posted on the board. Use the following questions:

What is the U.S. Constitution and why is it important?

List and describe the three branches of government. Which of these branches does National Park Service fall under?

Do you know anyone that has served in the military? Why is what they do so important?

What freedoms do you want the government to better protect?

Writing Prompts

Integrate writing by allowing students to prewrite, edit, and rewrite on topics surrounding freedom. Sample prompts include:

The Declaration of Independence states that “all men are created equal.” Do you believe that all citizens are truly equal in the eyes of society? Explain your answer.

What characteristics do you think good citizens have?

Write a letter to the President, telling him why the decisions he makes are so important to young people.

A revolution is a sudden change in government. Imagine students became the decision-makers in your school? Describe some of the changes that might take place.

Homework Assignments

Assign students a homework assignment as a way to integrate Constitution Day and Freedom Week into the curriculum.

A constitution is a document that spells out the laws of a society. Create a constitution that outlines the laws in your household. Cover such topics as household purchases, chores, and curfews.

Take this assignment one step further and have students create a bill of rights. This assignment

could be used for extra credit.

A bill of rights is a list of freedoms the government promises to protect. Add a bill of rights to your family constitution, outlining the freedoms that should be guaranteed to every family member.