



# English III - ELL

## Week 3

## English III, Week 3

### What is Freedom?

Task 1: Vocabulary: Write the definition for each vocabulary word. Look up the word in your home language. What is it? Use each word in a sentence.

- Ratified
- Framers
- Amendment
- Preamble
- Constitution
- Abridging
- Redress

Task 2: Pre-reading

#### About the Document

The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States was a part of the original document that was ratified on June 1, 1788. Almost immediately after that ratification, Congress approved 12 proposed amendments called the Bill of Rights and sent them to the individual states for ratification. Nine states approved 10 of the amendments within six months. The endorsement of 11 states was necessary before anything could take effect, however. Vermont and Virginia finally accepted the 10 amendments in 1791, and the Bill of Rights became part of the Constitution that same year.

What is the Bill of Rights? What is the Preamble to the Constitution?

- Read “About the Document” above.
- Look up the Bill of Rights and the Preamble.
- Who were they written by?
- When were they written?
- Why were they written?

Task 3: Read the texts

- Read the two historical documents.
- Write down any words you do not know.
- Define those words in English and in your home language.

## The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

## The Bill of Rights: A Transcription

### Amendment I

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.

### Amendment II

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.

### Amendment III

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.

### Amendment IV

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.

### Amendment V

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 or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence 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.

Amendment VI

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 wherein 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 defence.

Amendment VII

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 re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

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

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Task 4: Check for understanding

- What does the preamble to the constitution actually mean?
  - Write 3 sentences about your understanding of what the preamble means.
- What do each of the amendments mean?
  - Complete the graphic organizer about the purpose of the preamble and meaning of each of the amendments.
  - Write a sentence description in each of the boxes.

| The Constitution's Preamble and Bill of Rights |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Author's Purpose:                              |                         |
| Audience:                                      |                         |
| Amendment                                      | Message Within the Text |
| Amendment I                                    |                         |
| Amendment II                                   |                         |
| Amendment III                                  |                         |
| Amendment IV                                   |                         |
| Amendment V                                    |                         |
| Amendment VI                                   |                         |
| Amendment VII                                  |                         |
| Amendment VIII                                 |                         |
| Amendment IX                                   |                         |
| Amendment X                                    |                         |

Task 5: Text Analysis

- Why did the founders of the United States write and ratify a constitution?
- Who was the information in the Constitution intended for?
- Why was the Bill of Rights added to the constitution?

### Task 6: Quick Write

- Write a paragraph answer to the following questions: Why are the preamble to the US constitution and the Bill of Rights important? How do they answer the question, What is freedom?
- The preamble to the US Constitution is important because .....
- The Bill of Rights is important because .....
- Freedom is.....
- In the text it says .....