

# HANDBOOK ON CITIZENSHIP

## CHAPTER 2

# Rights, Rights and More Rights

Talking about our rights is an American pastime because our nation's history is largely about fighting for our rights. Most of the colonists came here to have the right to practice their religion. The colonists told the king in the 1776 Declaration of Independence that he was interfering with their rights. In 1787, the Framers of the Constitution established a government for the sole reason to protect people's rights. In the 20th century, African-Americans and women struggled to have their rights protected.

What is a right? A right is something that you were born with and can only be taken away for an extremely good reason. When people are asked to name a right, most answer, "Freedom of speech." This is a right, but it cannot be used to spread lies or put someone else in danger. United States citizens have rights that non-citizens do not. All Americans need to know their rights and be responsible for helping keep those rights.

Personal rights include:	Political rights include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freedom of religion.</li> <li>Freedom of speech.</li> <li>Freedom to associate with whom we want to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having the <i>Miranda</i> rights read when arrested.</li> <li>Voting.</li> <li>Having a jury trial.</li> <li>Freedom to meet in groups.</li> </ul>

Bill of Rights  
Congress of the United States  
begun and held at the City of New York  
Wednesday, the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven

The Bill of Rights  
Ratified December 15, 1791

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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

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

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

Article X  
The powers not delegated to the States by the Constitution, nor prohibited to the States by the States re

### Classroom Activities:

- Grades 4-6:
1. Look at the Bill of Rights and list all the rights listed there.
  2. The Ninth Amendment says we have other rights not listed. What do you think those are?

- Grades 7-12:
1. Look at the 9th Amendment. What does it mean? Is this how the Supreme Court decided there was a right to privacy?
  2. Discuss what famous United States Supreme Court cases have helped to protect people's rights.
  3. The 14th Amendment makes it clear that all persons, not just citizens, have rights in this country. Why do you think the writers of the amendment said this?

Missouri Standards Alignment:  
Grades K-8: SS3, SS6; 1.2, 1.4, 3.1, 4.2; 1-A, 1-B 1-C.  
Grades 9-12: SS3, SS6; 4.2; 1-A, 1-B, 1-C.

Only U.S. Citizens have the right to:

- Vote.
- Run for political office.
- Serve on a jury.