

# THE CONSTITUTION ANTICIPATION GUIDE

## Teacher Answer Key

**Before Reading Documents:** Read through the statements about the Constitution.

**During the Reading of the Documents:** As you read the historical documents, find and write down the “evidence” (quotes, phrases and the document name) where you believe the document may have influenced the contents of the Constitution.

The answers in italic are suggestions. Students may find other passages that can be interpreted to answer the Constitution statement. It is the teacher’s decision whether the student’s answer meets the criteria.

**1. We (the people) find it necessary to form a new government through this Constitution (Preamble)**

*“Combine ourselves together into a civil body politic” – Mayflower Compact*

**2. We (the people) want liberty and justice for ourselves and all future generations. (Preamble)**

*“For us and our heirs forever, all the liberties written out below, to have and to keep them for us and our heirs” – Magna Carta*

*“(1) . . . by this present charter have confirmed for us and our heirs in perpetuity, that the English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights undiminished, and its liberties unimpaired” – Magna Carta*

**3. Congress has the power to collect taxes and fees to pay debts to foreign nations, and to provide for a common defense through the military. This money is also for the welfare of all the United States and will not favor one state over another. (Article I)**

*“Your subjects have inherited this freedom, that they should not be compelled to contribute to any tax, tallage, aid or other like charge not set by common consent, in parliament . . .” – Petition of Right*

*“No taxes should be levied without the authority of Parliament” – English Bill of Rights*

**4. To create a government, there will be free elections by the people. This type of representative government will elect a Congress and a President. (Article I, Article V)**

*“The election of members of Parliament should be free” – English Bill of Rights*

**5. Each citizen has the right to freedom of religion, freedom of speech, the right to assembly, and the right to petition the government. (Amendment I)**

*“The freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament should not be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament.” – English Bill of Rights*

*“the right to petition the monarch should be without fear of retribution” – English Bill of Rights*

**6. Each citizen has the right to a speedy trial by an impartial jury. (Amendment VI)**

*“(40) To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice.” – Magna Carta*

*“(39) No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land” – Magna Carta*

*“jurors should be duly impaneled and returned and jurors in high treason trials should be freeholders” – English Bill of Rights*

**7. A citizen who is accused of a crime has the right to be confronted by the witnesses against him. (Amendment VI)**

*“(38) In future no official shall place a man on trial upon his own unsupported statement, without producing credible witnesses to the truth of it.” – Magna Carta*

**8. Each citizen has the right to keep and bear arms. (Amendment II)**

*“Subjects who are Protestants may bear arms for their defense” – English Bill of Rights*

**9. A federal system of courts and justices will be established to deliver interpretations of the Constitution as law. (Article III)**

*“(24) No sheriff, constable, coroners, or other royal officials are to hold lawsuits that should be held by the royal justices” – Magna Carta*

*“have had an oath administered unto them not warrantable by the laws or statutes of this realm, and have been constrained to become bound and make appearance and give utterance before your Privy Council . . .” – Petition of Rights*

**10. Congress has the power to make laws that are applied equally to all states and that uphold the intent of the Constitution. (Article I)**

*“Let all men of our kingdom, whether clergy or laymen, observe them similarly in their relations with their own men” – Magna Carta*

*“Shall frame such just and equall laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete and convenient for the general good . . .” – Mayflower Compact*

*“laws should not be dispensed with or suspended without the consent of Parliament”- English Bill of Rights*