

Rights in Action

Match constitutional rights to real civic situations.

SS.7.CG.2.3 "Identify and apply the rights contained in the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the U.S. Constitution."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each amendment name and circle the words that tell what right or protection it provides. Number the sentences that show a person using a right.

Constitutional Rights at Work

- ① At a neighborhood meeting, Maya wants to speak against a plan to close the library on Sundays. The First Amendment protects her right to express an opinion and to gather peacefully with neighbors. It also protects freedom of religion, press, and petition. These rights let people share ideas and ask government leaders to act. They do not allow threats, violence, or stopping other people from speaking. Maya can sign a petition, attend the meeting, and listen while others disagree.
- ② Constitutional rights also protect people when government officials investigate crimes. The Fourth Amendment generally requires police to have a warrant based on probable cause before searching a person's home or taking property, although limited exceptions exist. The Fifth Amendment protects people from being forced to testify against themselves and promises due process. The Sixth Amendment gives a person accused of a crime rights such as a speedy public trial, a lawyer, and an impartial jury. These protections help make legal procedures fair.
- ③ Other amendments expanded political rights. The Fourteenth Amendment requires states to provide equal protection of the laws. The Fifteenth Amendment says voting rights cannot be denied because of race, and the Nineteenth Amendment protects voting rights regardless of sex. The Twenty-Fourth Amendment bars poll taxes in federal elections. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment sets the voting age at eighteen. A citizen who is at least eighteen may register and vote if eligible under state rules. These amendments help more citizens take part in government.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which First Amendment right does Maya use when she signs a petition, and whom is she asking to act?

2 A police officer wants to search a person's home during an investigation. Which amendment applies, and what does the passage say is generally needed first?

3 How do the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments protect voting rights in different ways?

4 Name two rights the Sixth Amendment gives to a person accused of a crime.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that Eli believes a new city rule is unfair. Write exactly three sentences that name a Bill of Rights amendment, explain the right he can use, and describe two peaceful actions he can take to ask city leaders to change the rule.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each amendment name and circle the words that tell what right or protection it provides. Number the sentences that show a person using a right. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which First Amendment right does Maya use when she signs a petition, and whom is she asking to act?	She uses the right to petition, and she is asking government leaders to act.
2	A police officer wants to search a person's home during an investigation. Which amendment applies, and what does the passage say is generally needed first?	The Fourth Amendment applies. Police generally need a warrant based on probable cause before searching a home.
3	How do the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments protect voting rights in different ways?	The Fifteenth Amendment says voting rights cannot be denied because of race. The Nineteenth Amendment protects voting rights regardless of sex.
4	Name two rights the Sixth Amendment gives to a person accused of a crime.	Answers may include a speedy public trial, a lawyer, and an impartial jury.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Eli can use the First Amendment right to petition the government. This right lets him ask city leaders to change the rule. He can sign a petition and speak peacefully at a city council meeting.

Accept equivalent wording that correctly connects each situation to the named constitutional right or protection. For the open response, accept any accurate Bill of Rights amendment, explanation, and two lawful peaceful actions.