

Changing Carefully

Read how amendments allow change while protecting the Constitution.

SS5CG2.b "Describe the purpose for the amendment process."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentences that explain the two purposes of the amendment process, allowing needed change and protecting the Constitution from sudden change.

Why Amendments Matter

- ① The United States Constitution is the nation's basic plan for government. The people who wrote it knew that future generations might face new needs. Instead of rewriting the whole Constitution whenever a change was needed, they included an amendment process. An amendment can add to the Constitution or change part of it. This process lets the Constitution respond to important changes over time.
- ② The process is designed to balance change with stability. It has several required steps and needs support from many elected leaders and states. Because agreement is difficult to build, a small group cannot quickly alter the Constitution. This protects the nation's basic rules from sudden changes. At the same time, people have a lawful way to make a lasting change when the country strongly agrees it is needed.
- ③ For example, the Nineteenth Amendment says the right to vote cannot be denied because of sex. It was added through the amendment process after people worked for a change in voting rights. This shows why the process matters. It can correct an important problem or meet a new need, while the careful steps help make sure the change has broad support.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did the writers include an amendment process instead of rewriting the whole Constitution when change was needed?

2 What two goals does the amendment process balance?

3 Why cannot a small group quickly alter the Constitution?

4 How does the Nineteenth Amendment show one purpose of the amendment process?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about a new need that might require an amendment. Name the need, explain why the amendment process would be useful, and explain why broad support should be required before the change becomes lasting.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentences that explain the two purposes of the amendment process, allowing needed change and protecting the Constitution from sudden change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did the writers include an amendment process instead of rewriting the whole Constitution when change was needed?	It allows the Constitution to respond to important changes without rewriting the whole document.
2	What two goals does the amendment process balance?	It balances needed change with stability.
3	Why cannot a small group quickly alter the Constitution?	The process has required steps and needs support from many elected leaders and states.
4	How does the Nineteenth Amendment show one purpose of the amendment process?	It shows that the process can make a lasting change to correct an important problem, in this case voting rights denied because of sex.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A new amendment could protect people's personal information from being misused by the government. The amendment process would give the country a lawful way to make this lasting change. Careful steps and broad support would help prevent a sudden rule that many people had not considered.

Accept responses that explain both purposes, making needed, lasting constitutional change and preventing sudden changes without broad agreement. For the open response, accept any plausible new need that includes both ideas.