



Second Amendment: Lesson Plan

Topic	
<p>The Second Amendment was drafted to protect state militias. In the early 2000s, the Supreme Court provided legal backing for the Amendment’s interpretation as the individual citizen’s right to bear arms. Since then, the Second Amendment has become highly controversial as gun violence and mass shootings remain a high risk in the US.</p>	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US History • Government • Politics 	30-45 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/video/second-amendment-stifle-the-rifle-or-needed-for-survival/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the Second Amendment. • Explain why it was originally passed and its modern expanded interpretation. • Apply the Second Amendment to modern societal issues. • Explain at least one relevant court case (past or current) that involved the Second Amendment. 	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
Bill of Rights, Due Process, Supreme Court	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet, Whiteboard/Chalkboard	
Before you watch	



Think-pair-share: Ask the students if they know what the Second Amendment to the Constitution is and why it was created. Answer any questions the students are unable to answer by writing them down on the board.

While you watch

1. What was the Second Amendment drafted to protect?
2. Name one of the Supreme Court cases that expanded the definition of the right to bear arms.
3. How did the Second Amendment come to dominate the modern political climate?

After you watch/discussion questions

1. Do you think the Second Amendment requires reformation? Why or Why not?
2. What would a reformation to the Second Amendment look like/achieve?
3. How might our founders write the Second Amendment today?

Activity Ideas

- **Amendment Rewrite:** Have students split up into groups of four or five and add or rewrite a clause to the Second Amendment. Have each group present their decision as well as justify their reasons for making that decision.
- **Case Creation:** Have students create an imaginary case that involves the Second Amendment. Tell them to specify each side as well as indicate which side they believe the Supreme Court would rule in favor of and which side they themselves would rule in favor of.
- **Worksheet:** Split the students into two groups. Have one side defend the Second Amendment and the other argue for a more limited interpretation. Have students use their Worksheet answers to help provide evidence for their respective sides.

Sources/places to learn more

1. "Second Amendment." *Legal Information Institute*, Legal Information Institute, www.law.cornell.edu/wex/second_amendment.
2. Waldman, Michael. *The Second Amendment: a Biography*. Simon & Schuster, 2015.



3. "Second Amendment." *The Independent*, Independent Digital News and Media, www.independent.co.uk/topic/second-amendment.