



# Bill of Rights Overview

**Directions:** Explore the simplified explanation provided for each amendment. Place a ☆ star next to the five amendments that you think are most important to protecting the rights of individuals.

Amendment	Amendment Simplified	Resources
<b>1st Amendment</b>	<p>Congress is not allowed to make any law that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Favors one religion over another religion, or no religion at all, or opposes any religion.</li><li>● Stops you from practicing your religion as you see fit.</li><li>● Keeps you from saying whatever you want, even if you are criticizing the president of the United States.</li><li>● Prevents newspapers, magazines, books, movies, radio, television, or the internet from presenting any news, ideas, and opinions that they choose.</li><li>● Stops you from meeting peacefully for a demonstration or protest to ask the government to change something.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">Freedom of Religion (Video)</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Freedom of Expression (Video)</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Freedom of Assembly and Petition (Video)</a></li></ul>
<b>2nd Amendment</b>	<p>Congress cannot stop people from owning and carrying weapons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">To Keep and Bear Arms (Video)</a></li></ul>
<b>3rd Amendment</b>	<p>You are not required to let soldiers live in your house. In the event of a war, Congress needs to pass a law to establish rules on housing members of the military in your home.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">My Home is My Castle (Video)</a></li></ul>
<b>4th Amendment</b>	<p>No one can search your body, your house, or your papers and personal belongings unless they can prove to a judge that they have a good reason for the search.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">My Home is My Castle (Video)</a></li></ul>



Amendment	Amendment Simplified	Resources
<b>5th Amendment</b>	<p>Except during times of war or if you are in the military:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You cannot be tried for any serious crime without a grand jury meeting first to decide whether there is enough evidence against you for a trial.</li><li>• If at the end of a trial, the jury decides you are innocent, the government is not allowed to try you again for the same crime with another jury.</li><li>• You cannot be forced to admit you are guilty of a crime. You also have the right not to speak at your own trial.</li><li>• People cannot be killed, put in jail, or fined unless they are convicted of a crime by a jury and all of the proper legal steps during your arrest and trial are followed.</li><li>• The government is not allowed to take your house, your farm, or anything that is yours unless the government pays for it at a fair price.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Due Process of Law (Video)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Presumed Innocent (Video)</a></li></ul>
<b>6th Amendment</b>	<p>If you are arrested and charged with a crime:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You have a right to have your trial soon and in public so everyone knows what is happening.</li><li>• The case has to be decided by a jury of ordinary people that live near you, if you wish.</li><li>• You have the right to know what you are accused of doing wrong, and to see, hear, and cross-examine the people who are witnesses against you.</li><li>• You have the right to a lawyer to help you. If you cannot afford to pay the lawyer, the government will provide one.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">The Right to a Fair Trial (Video)</a></li></ul>



Amendment	Amendment Simplified	Resources
<b>7th Amendment</b>	You also have the right to a jury when it is a civil case (a legal case between two people rather than between you and the government).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">The Right to a Fair Trial</a> (Video)</li></ul>
<b>8th Amendment</b>	The government cannot make you pay more than is reasonable in bail or in fines, and the government is not allowed to inflict cruel or unusual punishments, such as torture, even if you are convicted of a crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">Cruel and Unusual</a> (Video)</li></ul>
<b>9th Amendment</b>	All the rights not listed in the Constitution belong to the people, not the government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">Unlisted Rights</a> (Video)</li></ul>
<b>10th Amendment</b>	Anything the Constitution does not say that Congress can do is left up to the states and to the people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">States' Rights</a> (Video)</li></ul>

**What rights do you think are missing from the Bill of Rights?  
Identify three rights you think should be added:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.