

Kids' Hyper-Constitution

On September 17, 1787, thirty-nine men finished writing what is no doubt one of the most important documents on the history of the United States of America: The Constitution. It begins:

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Unfortunately, the lofty language used in this historic document can be difficult for younger students to understand. That's where you can help!

Let's create a plain language translation of the U.S. Constitution with hyperlinks to real-world examples of its principles in action. We can also include scenarios to explain what would happen if we did not have the Constitution to guide our nation. Your document will be shared with other educators in our school and district. We can even share it with students in other countries to help them understand the basics of America's government!



Kids' Hyper-Constitution *Rubric*

	Novice	Apprentice	Practitioner	Expert
Translation	includes summary of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preamble • Article I, Sections 1 and 2 • Article II, Sections 1 and 2 • Article III, Section 1 	includes accurate summary of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preamble • Article I, Sections 1 and 2 • Article II, Sections 1 and 2 • Article III, Section 1 • Article V 	includes accurate summary of the following while maintaining original main ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preamble • Article I, Sections 1, 2, and 3 • Article II • Article III, Section 1 • Article V • Article VII 	all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus: includes an accurate summary of the Bill of Rights
Grammar and Mechanics	meets one or two of the criteria on <i>Writer's Checklist</i>	meets three or four of the criteria on <i>Writer's Checklist</i>	meets five of the criteria on <i>Writer's Checklist</i>	meets all six criteria on <i>Writer's Checklist</i>
Hyperlinks	include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links to definitions of potentially difficult and/or confusing words • links to credible sources showing examples of the Constitution in action • links to self-published scenarios of what might happen if Constitution did not exist 	include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links to definitions of academic vocabulary • links to credible sources and/or self-published examples showing the Constitution in action • links to self-published scenarios of what might happen if Constitution did not exist 	include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links to definitions and examples of academic vocabulary • links to credible sources and self-published examples showing the Constitution in action • links to self-published scenarios of what might happen if Constitution did not exist 	all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus: includes links to multimedia presentations such as videos, podcasts, interactive games, etc.

Kids' Hyper-Constitution Rubric (continued)

Format and Layout	<p>includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • titles of articles and sections • illustrations and/or photographs • text features such as bold print, italics, etc. 	<p>includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formatting for titles of articles and sections • illustrations and/or photographs with captions providing additional information • text features such as bold print, italics, etc. to highlight key ideas, hyperlinks, etc. 	<p>includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate formatting for titles of articles and sections • purposefully chosen illustrations and/or photographs with captions providing additional information • text features such as bold print, italics, etc. to highlight key ideas, hyperlinks, etc. 	<p>all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus: includes font(s) appealing to target audience</p>
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