

West Virginia Studies Resource Development

Title of Lesson: West Virginia Constitutional Amendments	
Grade level: 8 th Grade	
Summary: In this lesson the students will discuss how the West Virginia Constitution is amended (changed). They will read through all of the amendments that had been passed (18) and discuss what they are about.	
WV CCR Social Studies Standards:	
SS.8.4	Differentiate between the division of powers and responsibilities for each of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of the United States and West Virginia governments, describe the system of checks and balances, and explore local forms of government. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain the amendment process of the <i>West Virginia Constitution</i>, give examples of amendments, and explain their purpose.
Students will know and understand (content): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How the West Virginia Constitution is amended- Why the West Virginia Constitution has been amended	
Students will be able to do (skills): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Describe the process of amending the state constitution.- Compare and contrast the amendments to the state constitution.	
Materials & Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Printout from West Virginia legislature website on how the constitution is amended for all students. (attached)- Print outs of the 18 amendments from the same website. (attached)	
Learning Plan: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Print out Article 14 of the West Virginia Constitution which is on amendments and how amendments can be made. They can be found at http://www.wvlegislature.gov/wvcode/wv_con.cfm#articleXIV2. Read Article 14 out loud discussing how amendments can be proposed and passed.3. Print out all of the amendments that have been made.4. Cut the amendments out for discussion. There are 18 total amendments.5. Give the students 15 minutes to read their amendments and write a short paragraph describing what the amendment was about.6. In order of passage, have the students discuss their amendments to the class.	

Checking for Understanding:

1. What are the ways to amend the constitution of West Virginia?
2. What are the common themes of the amendments?
3. Why do you think the same themes (roads, Veterans) keep appearing in amendments?

Higher Level Questioning:

1. Why does the West Virginia Constitution include an amendment process?
2. What are some amendments that could appear in the future? What is your reasoning?

Accommodations:

1. Some of the amendments are long and some are short. Hand out the shorter amendments to students with a lower reading ability.
2. The teacher could partner the students with low reading ability with higher level students.