**Constitutional Amendments:**

**Which amendment had the greatest impact on United States citizens?**

SS.7.C.3.5 Explain the constitutional amendment process.

SS.7.C.3.6 Evaluate constitutional rights and their impact on individuals and society.

SS.7.C.3.7 Analyze the impact of the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments on participation of minority groups in the American political process.

For this decision-making lesson, students will continue their study of the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments based on information provided by articles, videos, and their classroom texts to determine which amendment has had the greatest impact on United States citizens. Using this information, students will rank their choices and explain how they reached their decisions.

**Problem**

Who is the most influential Constitutional amendment?

**Alternatives**

13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments

**Criteria**

Impact on minorities in the political process, impact on individual rights; social/economic impact

**Decision**

Which amendment did you choose? How did you make that decision?

Read the letter from Article Fivers and discuss the decision that the students need to make (which Constitutional amendment has had the greatest impact on the United States of America). Discuss the criteria that the class included regarding how to choose the amendment (Impact on minorities in the political process, impact on individual rights; impact on society).

1. Review the Constitutional amendment process. Use classroom textbooks follow the links below:
	1. The Constitution provides for the amendment process in Article V
		1. <https://www.usconstitution.net/xconst_A5.html>
	2. The process explained
		1. <https://www.usconstitution.net/constam.html>
2. Use the links below to research each amendment:
	1. <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-i> This site provided common interpretations of each amendment as well as points of debate
	2. <https://www.civiced.org/images/stories/downloads/United_States_Constitution_for_Kids.pdf> This document includes clickable links for the amendments, with background and student-friendly interpretations (to print the six amendments see the end of this lesson)
	3. For easier interpretations, see the links for each amendment below:
		1. <https://www.ducksters.com/history/us_government/thirteenth_amendment.php>
		2. <https://www.ducksters.com/history/us_government/fourteenth_amendment.php>
		3. <https://www.ducksters.com/history/us_government/fifteenth_amendment.php>
		4. <https://www.ducksters.com/history/us_government/nineteenth_amendment.php>
		5. <https://study.com/academy/lesson/the-24th-amendment-definition-summary-history-court-cases.html>
		6. <https://study.com/academy/lesson/the-26th-amendment-definition-history-facts-court-cases.html>
	4. Use the matrix to take notes on each amendment’s connection to the three criteria for selection.
3. After all information has been gathered, use the matrix to start a discussion on the 13th Amendment. What notes were made related to each of the criteria? Does the 13th Amendment meet all of the criteria? If yes, how? If not, what is missing?
4. Repeat this process for the other amendments.
5. In teams the students will work together to evaluate the completed matrix and make a decision regarding the amendment that should be named the amendment has made the greatest impact on citizens of the United States?
6. Students will then rank each amendment from first to last.
7. Students will then present their findings to the class, giving the reasons why ranked the choices as they did and the procedure of how they got to that decision. What is the opportunity cost (the next-best choice for Amendment Fivers)?
	1. Encourage students to discuss each step in their processes for making their choices. What did they do first? After that?
8. Students write a letter to Amendment Fivers and explain:
* how they ranked each amendment
* the process they used for making their choices and
* why the amendment they chose is the best choice.

A frame can also be used:

Date:

Dear Amendment Fivers,

Our team has reviewed information on 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments and are suggesting the following for the amendment that has made the greatest impact on citizens of the United States. We have ranked them in order beginning with our top choice.

Top Choice:

Alternate Choice #1:

Alternate Choice #2:

Alternate Choice #3:

Alternate Choice #4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Choice #5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Our step-by-step procedure for ranking the choices in this way was:

Thank you for the opportunity to assist you with this project!

Sincerely,

Extension/ideas:

* Create a presentation for the Amendment Fivers that outlines the woman chosen for the award.
* Have students create breaking-news reports on the passage of each amendment and how the amendment might change the lives of U. S. citizens.
* Read more about the amendment process at ReadWorks (create a free account): <https://www.readworks.org/find-content#!q:amendment/g:/t:/f:0/pt:/features:/>

Differentiation:

* Reduce alternatives and/or criteria.
	+ Create a new letter from Amendment Fivers asking students to reconsider their choices based on different alternatives/criteria
* Increase alternatives and/or criteria.
	+ Same as above
* Provide note-taking tools with some of the information from textbooks, videos, and/or web articles already filled in.

**Amendment readings from** <https://www.civiced.org/images/stories/downloads/United_States_Constitution_for_Kids.pdf>















