



Bill of Rights Court

Mission: Nine cases are waiting in the courtroom. Read each case, decide which amendment protects the person's rights, and explain your ruling.

Big question: What rights does the Bill of Rights protect, and why were they added to the Constitution?

★ Warm-up: Rights radar

Is this a right protected by the Bill of Rights?

Saying your opinion about the government ✓ **Yes, the 1st Amendment.**

Getting a free phone ✓ **No.**

Key vocabulary

Amendment	A change or addition to the Constitution.
Bill of Rights	The first ten amendments.
Warrant	A judge's permission to search or arrest.
Accused	A person charged with a crime.

1 Box 1

Hear the cases

In the simulator: Place every case under the correct amendment.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Most cases

Which amendment protected the most cases, and what do its rights have in common?

☐ 1st: they are freedoms of expression and belief ☐ 8th: they are all punishments

☐ 2nd: they are all about weapons

✓ **1st: they are freedoms of expression and belief**

3 Box 3

Why add it?

Why did many Americans demand a Bill of Rights before accepting the Constitution?

☐ They feared a strong national government could take away freedoms ☐ They wanted more taxes

☐ They wanted a king

✓ **They feared a strong national government could take away freedoms**

Limits on rights

Freedom of speech protects you from the GOVERNMENT punishing your ideas. Which is still NOT protected?

☐ Making a true threat to hurt someone ☐ Criticizing the President ☐ Writing an opinion letter

✓ **Making a true threat to hurt someone**

4 Box 4

Your ruling

Write a ruling for ONE case.

The case

Look for: at least 8 words

Ruling

Look for: Names an amendment; at least 10 words

Reason

Look for: at least 14 words

5 Box 5

Legend: most important right Legend only

Which right in the Bill of Rights is most important to a democracy? Defend your answer.

Look for: Connects to democracy; at least 30 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

What rights does the Bill of Rights protect, and why were they added to the Constitution?

Look for: The Bill of Rights (1791) is the first ten amendments. It protects freedoms like speech, religion, and the press (1st), and the rights of people accused of crimes, like protection from unreasonable searches (4th), a fair trial (6th), and no cruel punishment (8th). It limits what the government can do.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	79D-E
 Investigator	1JD-I
 Legend	1OW-L

Watch for these misconceptions

- "The President is the boss of the whole government." The three branches are equal and check each other.
- "The Bill of Rights gives people rights." It protects rights people already have from government interference.

- "Freedom of speech means you can say anything anywhere with no consequences." It limits government, not every consequence.