



The Second Amendment

By: Amanda Martin
Elementary school music teacher; M.A.Ed. In Curriculum and Instruction

Social Studies
Grades 9–12



Introduction

Is the Second Amendment relevant today? In this lesson, students will gain a better understanding of the Second Amendment and its relevance in society through the study of a Federalist Paper and a friendly classroom debate.

Learning Objectives

([NSS-C.9-12.5](#)) Students will understand the rights of citizens in the United States.

Materials Needed

- Journals or paper

Procedure

1. What is the Second Amendment? Ask students to pair and share for 1 minute with those closest to them. Inform students what the Second Amendment means for American citizens.
2. Present this [Federalist Paper by James Madison](#). Spend the next 15-20 minutes reading through the document and discussing its contents.
3. While working individually, students should find the answers to the following document-based questions in a journal/notebook/piece of paper:
 - Who did Madison say has the ultimate authority?
 - What does the article say about national power and state power?
 - What is Madison's view on the right to bear arms?
 - For each question, students should elaborate and provide as much information as possible.
4. To conclude the lesson, students will participate in a friendly, short debate. Divide the class into two groups. The first group should be for Second Amendment rights. The second group should be against them. Students should respond to the following question to jumpstart the debate: *Should citizens have the right to bear arms?* Be sure to help guide the debate as student responses begin to keep the debate friendly and educational.

Continued on page 2



The Second Amendment

By: Amanda Martin

Elementary school music teacher; M.A.Ed. In Curriculum and Instruction

Social Studies
Grades 9–12



Continued from page 1

Evaluation

Student learning will be evaluated through the answering of three document-based questions. Please use the following checklist to evaluate student work:

- Student responses are thorough. _____
- Student responses provide evidence from the text. _____
- Student responses are detailed and elaborate. _____