

# The Equal Rights Amendment on Social Media

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) continues to be a sharply contested constitutional topic.

An [Associated Press/NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll](#) in 2020 found that 3 in 4 Americans support the amendment, but that support has not translated into making the ERA part of the Constitution.



[Watch on YouTube https://edtechbooks.org/-MfRg](https://edtechbooks.org/-MfRg)

Meanwhile, proponents and opponents make extensive use of the media, particularly social media, to build support for their side of the issue.

In these activities, you will explore how the ERA is being discussed on social media and then you will design a social media campaign to convince politicians to vote for the passage of the ERA.

## **Activity 1: Evaluate how the ERA is Discussed on Twitter**

- On Twitter, review how citizens and politicians discuss their opinions on passing the ERA.

- Start by looking into political hashtags like [#passtheERANow](#), [#equalrightsamendment](#), and [#ERANow](#).
- Then, type "equal rights amendment" into the Twitter search tool and explore the results.
- **Curate a collection** of social media accounts and posts in support of or opposition to ratification of the ERA on a Wakelet, Padlet, slide deck, Jamboard, or spreadsheet.
- Based on your Twitter research, **respond to the following prompts in a video, paper, or podcast:**
  - Is there more support or opposition present for the passage of the ERA on Twitter? Why do you think this is?
  - Are the majority of tweets from citizens or politicians? Why do you think this is?
  - How accurate, credible, and relevant are the tweets about the ERA? How did you determine this?
  - What are common themes or central ideas presented in the tweets?
  - What type of language and visuals are typically used in ERA-related tweets?
    - Do you think the language and visuals used are effective? Why or why not?
  - What is missing from these tweets (e.g., certain people's voices? Specific topics?)?

## Activity 2: Design a Social Media Campaign for the ERA

A manager of a pro-ERA group has come to you asking for your help with designing a social media campaign to convince political leaders to vote for the inclusion of the ERA in the Constitution.

- **Design a social media campaign** to build support for the ERA. The social media campaign should include at least 2 videos (e.g., YouTube, Snapchat, TikTok), 5 example posts, and

3 images (e.g., memes, graphics, infographics) designed by you.

- As you design your campaign, consider the following:
  - What visuals and language will you use to persuade politicians?
  - Which social media platforms will you use?
  - What will you write in your posts to capture attention and inspire action?
  - How will you use media (e.g., images, videos, audio) to make a convincing argument?
- \*Here is a [social media campaign example](#) created by Justin Lo, Daniel Mulno, and David Warde and here is a [Twitter campaign example](#) by Sara Shea.

## **Bonus Activity: Rewrite a Hollywood Script**

- Watch episode 18, Season 2 (“[17 People](#)”) of West Wing on Netflix. Choose either the pro ERA or anti-ERA storyline and rewrite the script for the side you have chosen.

## **Additional Resources**

- [ERA Coalition](#) (Twitter)
- [Vote Equality US](#) (Twitter)
- [ERA Social Media Kit](#) (National Organization for Women Foundation)
- [Not For Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony](#) (PBS)

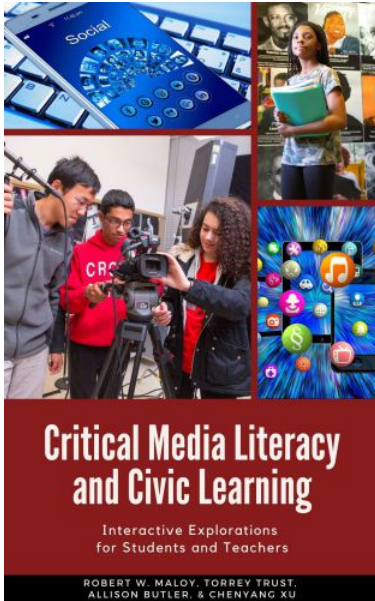
## **Connecting to the eBook**

[\*Building Democracy for All: Amendments to the Constitution\*](#)

## Connecting to the Standards

- [Massachusetts Civics & Government Standards](#)
  - *Explain the historical context and significance of changes in the Constitution, including key amendments.* (Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for History and Social Studies) **[8.T5.2]**
- [ISTE Standards](#)
  - Digital Citizen
    - 2c: Students demonstrate an understanding of and respect for the rights and obligations of using and sharing intellectual property.
  - Knowledge Constructor
    - 3a: Students plan and employ effective research strategies to locate information and other resources for their intellectual or creative pursuits.
    - 3b: Students evaluate the accuracy, perspective, credibility and relevance of information, media, data, or other resources.
    - 3c: Students curate information from digital resources using a variety of tools and methods to create collections of artifacts that demonstrate meaningful connections or conclusions.
    - 3d: Students build knowledge by actively exploring real-world issues and problems, developing ideas and theories and pursuing answers and solutions.
  - Creative Communicator
    - 6a: Students choose the appropriate platforms and tools for meeting the desired objectives of their creation or communication.
    - 6b: Students create original works or responsibly repurpose or remix digital resources into new creations.

- 6d: Students publish or present content that customizes the message and medium for the intended audiences.
- [DLCS Standards](#)
  - Ethics and Laws (CAS.b)
  - Interpersonal and Societal Impact (CAS.c)
  - Digital Tools (DTC.a)
  - Collaboration and Communication (DTC.b)
  - Research (DTC.c)
- [English Language Arts > History/Social Studies Common Core Standards](#)
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.6
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.8
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.6
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.6
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.8



Maloy, R. W., Trust, T., , & Xu, C. (2021). *Critical Media Literacy and Civic Learning*. EdTech Books.  
<https://edtechbooks.org/mediaandciviclearning>