

# Chapter 5. The Constitution, Amendments, and Supreme Court Decisions

The United States Constitution sets forth a government, in Abraham Lincoln’s famous phrase, “of the people, by the people, for the people.” It is a living, evolving document, its meaning changing over time through Congressional use of the “necessary and proper clause,” the passing of amendments, and decisions by the Supreme Court under its practice of judicial review.


The Civil War challenged the very existence of the Constitution in its dispute over the continuing slavery of Black Americans. Indeed, all of U.S. history has included struggles by individuals and groups to achieve constitutionally guaranteed civil rights and equal protection for race, gender, and disability.



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The media literacy activities in this section explore the Prohibition era in U.S. history, efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment and the Equality Act, how the Civil War is presented in historical publications, how race and gender are represented on U.S. currency, the importance of reading aloud Supreme Court dissents, and the potential impacts of cameras in federal and state courtrooms.

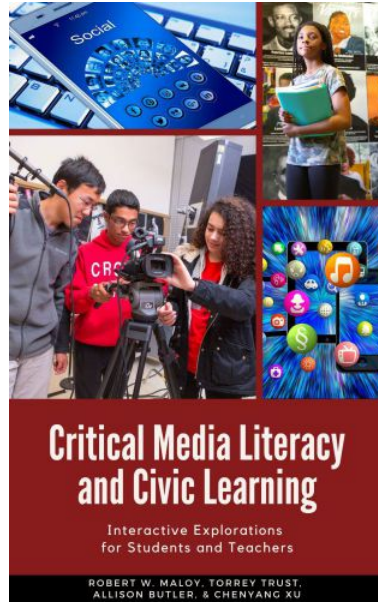
# Media Literacy Activities Choice Board

<p><b><u>Make Social Media For and Against Prohibition</u></b></p> <p>Research and create short videos about the prohibition movement from both sides.</p> 	<p><b><u>Evaluate how the ERA is Discussed on Twitter</u></b></p> <p>Examine people's opinions about the ERA on Twitter and create a video, paper, or podcast about your findings.</p> 	<p><b><u>Examine Civil War Recruitment Advertisements</u></b></p> <p>Review recruitment advertisements and design a modern-day ad on social media.</p> 	<p><b><u>Campaign for Changes in the Images on Currency</u></b></p> <p>Create a social media campaign to promote adding a woman, Native American, or Black American of your choosing to U.S. currency.</p> 
<p><b><u>Compare and Contrast Politicians' Use of Twitter Regarding the Equality Act</u></b></p> <p>Evaluate how Congress members discussed the Equality Act on Twitter and create a video, blog, or paper detailing your findings.</p> 	<p><b>The Constitution, Amendments, and Supreme Court Decisions</b></p> <p><b>Media Literacy Choice Board</b></p>  <p><i>Building Democracy for All</i>, a free eBook by Robert Maloy &amp; Torrey Trust explores all these topics and more</p>		<p><b><u>Evaluate the Impact of Spoken Words in Supreme Court Dissents</u></b></p> <p>Listen to a Supreme Court dissent and write a children's book about the impact of hearing Supreme Court dissents spoken aloud.</p> 
<p><b><u>Design a Social Media Campaign for the ERA</u></b></p> <p>Design a social media campaign to build support for the inclusion of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in the Constitution.</p> 	<p><b><u>Design a Format for Future Supreme Court TV Coverage</u></b></p> <p>Propose how to broadcast the Supreme Court oral arguments on TV.</p> 	<p><b><u>Analyze the Implications of Cameras in Courtrooms</u></b></p> <p>Conduct research and write an opinion piece about pros and cons of allowing cameras in the Supreme Court.</p> 	<p><b><u>Examine the Images of Women and People of Color on Currency</u></b></p> <p>Evaluate a currency featuring a woman, Native American, or African American and present your findings.</p> 

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The Constitution, Amendments, and Supreme Court Decisions Media Literacy Choice Board ([view](#)) ([make your own copy of this choice board to remix/share/use](#))

## Media Literacy Activities



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