

Topic 5: Bill of Rights on Twitter

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights, consists of 475 words. The U.S. Bill of Rights was signed on September 28, 1789. Here is the [full text read aloud](#).

Fourteen official copies of the Bill of Rights were printed - one for the federal government and one each for the original 13 states. Only 9 originals remain today ([Bill of Rights FAQs](#), National Constitution Center).

When the Bill of Rights was drafted there were about 200 weekly newspapers in the country ([Newspapers and the Press](#), David L. Jamison, 2008). But there was no social media, no television, no streaming services. But what if Twitter had been around at that time? In 2021, about one in five adults use Twitter, sending some 500 million tweets each day ([Twitter by the Numbers](#), Omnicore, January 6, 2021).



Watch on YouTube <https://edtechbooks.org/-xXX>

How would you have helped James Madison and the other members of Congress spread the word about the Bill of Rights on Twitter?

Activity: Tweet the Bill of Rights

- **Directions:** Rewrite the Bill of Rights with Twitter's 280 character limit in mind.
 - Each amendment should have its own tweet.
 - Be as concise as possible!
 - Make them contemporary - draw connections to present-day events and/or news.
 - Include visuals - memes, GIFs, videos, etc...
- **Tweeting:**
 - To engage in this activity without signing up for Twitter, use [TweetGen](#) to generate realistic screenshots of your tweets and then curate them in a Jamboard, Google Doc, or Padlet. Here is a faux [Twitter thread example](#) by Sara Shea.
 - To engage in this activity with Twitter, post your Bill of Rights tweets on Twitter. Reply to the tweets and discuss the role of the Bill of Rights in today's society.

Designing for Learning: Student-Created Activity Example

[Bill of Rights on Twitter](#)

Additional Resources

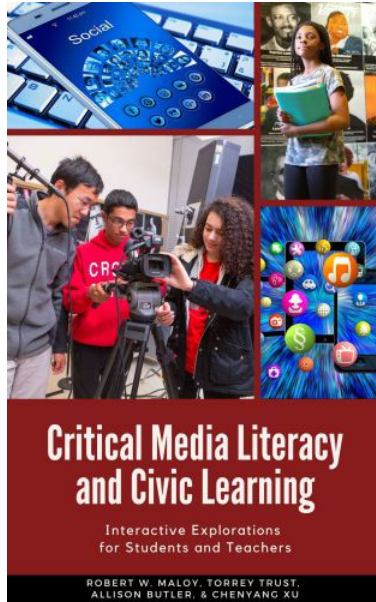
- [National Archives Challenges the Twitter-verse to Tweet the Bill of Rights](#)
- [The Bill of Rights in 4 Tweets](#)

Connecting to the eBook

[Building Democracy for All: The Articles of the Constitution and the Many Bills of Rights in United States History](#)

Connecting to the Standards

- [Massachusetts Civics & Government Standards](#)
 - *Summarize the Preamble and each article in the Constitution and the rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights; explain the reasons for the addition of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution in 1791* (Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for History and Social Science) [8.T2.5]
- [ISTE Standards](#)
 - Creative Communicator
 - 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](#)
 - Safety and Security (CAS.a)
 - Collaboration and Communication (DTC.b)
- [English Language Arts > History/Social Studies Common Core Standards](#)
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.4
- [English/Language Arts Common Core Standards](#)



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