

FP.C&G.2.3

Evaluate the U.S. Constitution as a “living Constitution” in terms of how the words in the Constitution and Bill of Rights have been interpreted and applied throughout their existence (e.g., precedents, rule of law, Stare decisis, judicial review, supremacy, equal protections, “establishment clause”, symbolic speech, due process, right to privacy, etc.).

Students will understand:

1. A written constitution can set forth the terms and limits of a government’s power. (Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances, frequent and free elections in a representative government, rule law, equal justice under the law, private property rights, federalism, due process, individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights)
2. Interpretation and application of founding ideals and principles may change over time. (US Constitution, Bill of Rights)
3. A nation’s founding documents reflect and preserve its basic ideals and principles. (US Constitution, NC Constitution, Declaration of Independence)

Students will know:

1. The purposes for the United States Constitution as outlined in the Preamble.
2. The meaning of a “living Constitution”. (US Constitution, NC Constitution)
3. The role of the courts in interpreting the Constitution. (US Constitution, individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights, federalism, due process)
4. The purpose of the first 10 amendments, the freedoms each grants, and their relevance to each citizen. (federalism, due process, individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights)
5. The processes for amending the United States Constitution. (US Constitution)
6. The reasons for and significance of later Amendments to the Constitution. (Equal justice under the law, frequent and free elections in a representative government)
7. Theory, need, and practice behind an ‘unwritten constitution’