



*Constitutional Principles and
Structures: SS.7.CG.3.5*
The Amendment Process
READING #3

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.3.5 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will identify the importance of a formal amendment process.

Article V (5) of the United States Constitution describes the two methods for **proposing** amendments and the two methods for **ratifying amendments**. The Founding Fathers wanted to make certain that there was a process for the Constitution to be a “living document” that could change with the times.

The Founding Fathers meant to create a process that would be difficult. If the process were too simple, the Constitution might be changed far more often than it should.

Once an amendment is ratified, it is part of the Constitution unless there is another amendment to reverse it. For example, the 18th Amendment banned alcohol, but the 21st Amendment reversed this ban.

Also, the U.S. Supreme Court interprets laws to determine if they are constitutional or not, including amendments to the Constitution. A law that goes against an amendment may be found **unconstitutional**.

Article V (5) of the Constitution explains the two ways in which an amendment can be proposed and the two ways in which an amendment can be ratified. A proposed amendment must follow the correct path to ratification and be approved to be added to the Constitution.

amendment - a change to a constitution (e.g., U.S. Constitution, Florida Constitution)

propose - to make a suggestion

ratify - to confirm by expressing consent; formally approve

unconstitutional - not in agreement with the U.S Constitution