



Ground Rules

- Listen attentively & actively to each other
- Ask clarifying questions to ensure understanding
- Invite alternative viewpoints
- Respond to and refer to others' points
- Avoid taking or making things personal (DO NOT name call, use derogatory language, take/make sides; DO share personal thoughts and experiences)
- Demonstrate concern and appreciation for others' input
- Communicate respectfully
- Begin sentences with "I think...", "From my experience...", "It is my understanding that...", "I recall seeing/hearing XYZ from XYZ news source" (Stay away from generalizations, such as "They think...", "Those people...", "You all are...")

Potential Conversation Starters for Constitution Day

Personal Questions

- What does the Constitution mean to you?
- When do you tend to hear people talking about the Constitution? What emotions do you generally connect to someone speaking about the Constitution?
- How does the Constitution impact you in your everyday life?
- How do you anticipate the Constitution to impact you in your professional career?
- Is the Constitution idolized? Should it be respected more or less?

Interpreting the Constitution

- When do you see the Constitution being interpreted in a way that differs from your own belief?
 - How do you encourage people to recognize your views? How do you talk to people who have different views than you?
 - What can we do to allow consistency in interpretation? How can we get polarization out of the Constitution? Should we remove polarization?
- Do you think the Constitution should protect rights or specify rights? Can a document give rights to a person?

Hypothetical Scenarios

- What do you see as a remedy for the amount of disinformation spread in our society? How should the Constitution address that? Should there be more/less protections against free speech?
- What can we do to effect positive change in a post-Jan 6 and world? What is the health of our Constitutional democracy? What can we do to help people feel connect?
- How has the Constitution evolved?
 - Individual rights vs. the greater good (ex. The Constitution's purpose is to address the greater good but how should personal rights impact our adherence to the Constitution?)
 - Do we need specific amendments? (ex. There is a specific law for quartering soldiers that made sense during the era in which it was passed. Should we be passing amendments that deal with public health or climate impact?)

Recent Constitution milestones

- 50th anniversary of the 26th Amendment (lowering the voting age to 18) was in 2021
- 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment (guaranteeing women voting rights) was in 2020