

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview
Article: “The Second Amendment Has No Exceptions” (15–20 Minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Goal

Students see that the Second Amendment’s express prohibition upon Congress from making any laws infringing upon gun rights means exactly what it says—*no* laws whatsoever.

Instructions

1. Instruct students to read the article and take notes/underline key passages. (Give them 6–8 minutes.)
2. Have students discuss their thoughts on the article in pairs/groups. (Give them 3–5 minutes.)
3. Ask for volunteers to share their takeaways from the article.
4. Ask the class the below questions, and get volunteers to answer.

Questions/Key

1. Why does the author (rightly) contend that the Second Amendment “has no exceptions”?

It says “shall NOT be infringed.”

2. How does the author demonstrate that not only is the U.S. statute banning certain individuals from owning a gun unconstitutional, but unjust as well?

We’ve already shown it’s unconstitutional, but it’s also immoral because (a) many “felons” have never committed any violent or dangerous crime, (b) the law doesn’t take into account that those felons paid for their crimes and/or might be totally different persons, and (c) it disarms vulnerable individuals like women, leaving them open to violent attacks by criminals.

3. How would you reasonably answer someone who says, “We *have* to ban felons from owning guns—they might use them to commit more crimes, including robbery and murder!”

AWV, but someone who isn’t going to obey a law not to rob or murder certainly isn’t going to obey a law that prohibits him from having a weapon! And don’t felons who haven’t committed any harmful crimes (since so many crimes are unjustly labeled “felonies”) have a right to self-defense, like the single mother mentioned?

The Second Amendment Has No Exceptions

The Future of Freedom Foundation

Laurence M. Vance • July 7, 2025

...[W]hen it comes to the issue of gun control, even some defenders of the Second Amendment allow for exceptions. But does the Second Amendment have any exceptions?

The Second Amendment was added to the Constitution as part of the Bill of Rights...The 27 words of the Second Amendment read: *“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.”*

It is clear that the Second Amendment has no exceptions.

Yet, according to 18 U.S. Code Chapter 44 Part I – FIREARMS, in §922 – Unlawful acts, (g)(1):

(g) It shall be unlawful for any person—

(1) who has been convicted in any court of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year;

(1) to ship or transport in interstate or foreign commerce, or possess in or affecting commerce, any firearm or ammunition; or

(2) to receive any firearm or ammunition which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

This prohibition was first imposed in 1961 as an amendment to the Federal Firearms Act of 1938. It does not take into account how long ago the conviction occurred, the nature of the offense, the penalty that was imposed, the jail time that was served, or what the perpetrator has done with his life since the incident occurred.

Firearms and ammunition are also prohibited for anyone convicted of domestic violence, dishonorably discharged from the Armed Forces, who is a fugitive from justice, who is an unlawful drug user, who has been committed to a mental institution, who is an illegal alien, who has renounced his citizenship, or has had a restraining order issued against him.

[A]bout 19 million Americans have been convicted of a felony. Yet, over 95 percent of federal felony convictions and over 80 percent of state felony convictions were for nonviolent crimes.

In 2008, Utah resident Melynda Vincent was convicted of bank fraud—a federal felony—because she wrote a bad check for \$498.12 at a grocery store. She was sentenced to probation, which she completed. She then went to college, earned three degrees, and became a social worker. Vincent is the founder of the Utah Harm Reduction Coalition (UHRC), “a non-profit community-based organization providing harm reduction services, education, and advocacy throughout the state of Utah.” Its mission “is to provide evidence-based interventions to aid people in reducing health and social harms associated with substance use.”

Because she is not legally permitted to own a gun, Vincent, a single mother, is unable to keep a gun for protection or to lawfully go shooting with her children. She sought a declaration from the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah that 18 USC 922(g)(1) is unconstitutional. After being denied, she appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit—*Vincent v. Bondi* (2025)—which also ruled against her. She then submitted a petition...to the U.S. Supreme Court, which is still pending.

The relevant issue here is simply this: Does the Second Amendment allow the federal government to permanently disarm a U.S. citizen who has an old, nonviolent felony conviction? But there is a broader issue here as well: Does the Second Amendment allow the federal government to disarm—temporarily or permanently—anyone for any reason?

The answer to both...is, of course, no. This is because the Second Amendment has no exceptions. It has no exceptions for licensing, background checks, registration, age, concealed weapons, gun shows, sawed-off shotguns, assault rifles, extended-capacity magazines, high caliber guns and ammunition, automatic weapons, or bazookas.

If there are to be restrictions on convicted felons owning guns, then they should be enacted on the state level. Do I want convicted felons to be able to own guns? It depends on the felon and on the conviction. First of all, many crimes that are classified as felonies should be misdemeanors or no crime at all. Second, no convicted murderer should be permitted to own a gun for the simple reason that no convicted murderer should ever be let out of prison. Third, someone convicted of armed robbery or some actual crime with a firearm who upon his release from prison wants to do it all over again, is not concerned with whether it is lawful to own a gun while he commits a crime.

But regardless of my opinion regarding state laws, the Second Amendment is very clear: It has no exceptions, not even for convicted felons.

The above article may be found here: fff.org/explore-freedom/article/the-second-amendment-has-no-exceptions