

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.
Short Film: Politicians and the Second Amendment (12–15 Minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Goal

Students learn about the right to bear arms and see three more politicians discussing/debating the passing of laws that violate the Second Amendment.

Instructions

1. Play the short film (4:38) of three U.S. politicians discussing restricting the Second Amendment at this link: <https://youtu.be/m7Ad22AV0sw>, and tell students to take notes.
2. Have students in pairs/groups discuss for 5–7 minutes, and then discuss as a class (notes below on the short film).
3. Tell students to (a) turn in their books to the “founding father” quotes in the book’s section on the Second Amendment, and (b) in pairs/groups, **find one or two quotes that refute the claims or goals of Biden, Harris, and Trump**, as shown in the film clips viewed. (Give pairs/groups 5–7 minutes.)

Short Film Notes

- Joe Biden: “I’ll crack down on guns with no serial numbers that can’t be traced. I ask Congress to pass universal background checks before anyone buys a gun and to ban ‘assault weapons’ that can fire up to 100 rounds—hunters don’t need that many rounds to kill a deer. Also let’s make gun manufacturers liable for any crimes that someone commits while using a gun bought from them.”
- Kamala Harris: “Students in government schools shouldn’t have to participate in drills if an active shooter is in the school. School shootings happen because some politicians don’t want to put restrictions on gun ownership, and they believe these restrictions will lead to the government’s taking away guns from Americans. We should have universal background checks and a ban of ‘assault weapons.’ When I’m elected, I’ll give Congress 100 days to pass these laws, and if it doesn’t, I’ll take the law into my own hands and order that anyone who sells more than five guns a year to do background checks, as well as take their license to sell guns away if they don’t comply.”
- Donald Trump: “We’re going to put into place more background checks for those who want to buy a gun. There is ‘tremendous support’ to expand background checks on gun sales. Sometimes it takes too long to go through legal procedures if the government wants to take away someone’s gun(s). If we think someone is a threat, I’m in favor of taking his guns first and then following ‘due process’ later.”

Debrief/Wrap-Up Questions

1. What do Joe Biden and Kamala Harris misunderstand about the purpose of the Second Amendment by their focus on hunting? *AWV, but the purpose of prohibiting the U.S. government from making any laws whatsoever infringing upon gun rights is so that the people will be able to resist government tyranny, not to hunt. NOTE: Christians should, of course, view armed resistance to government differently than non-Christians.*
2. If a tyrannical government decides to confiscate arms from the people, how will information on background checks help them to achieve that goal? *AWV, but they now have a list of people who went through background checks to get a gun, so they know that these same people almost certainly still have their guns!*
3. What advantage do criminals have over those who obey background-check laws and are potentially denied the right to bear arms? *Criminals, by definition, don’t obey laws! They aren’t stopped from obtaining weapons by background-check laws, unlike those who follow those laws.*