

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.
Sixth Amendment Survival Draft (10–15 Minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Goal

Students see the importance of every Sixth Amendment protection.

Instructions

1. Place students in groups of 3–4.
2. Have pair/groups complete the handout (allow 3–5 minutes).
3. After groups present, announce any one (or all) of these situations, one at a time, and give groups 3–5 minutes to change their rankings and explain why:

Scenario A: The prosecutor is corrupt.

Scenario B: The town already believes you're guilty.

Scenario C: The government has unlimited money and investigators.

Scenario D: Witnesses are lying about you.

Debrief/Wrap-Up Questions

- Which protection was chosen most often as #1?
- Which protection was chosen least often?
- Did any group discover that the protections work together?
- Why would the Founders include all of them instead of just one or two?

Key Insight: The Sixth Amendment is designed as a collection of safeguards. Removing even one protection makes it easier for innocent people to be convicted and for government officials to abuse their power.

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Imagine you have been falsely accused of a crime. Your group may keep only three protections. The government removes all the others. Groups must (a) choose their three protections, (b) rank them #1–#3, and (c) prepare a one-minute defense of their choices.

Protection List:

Speedy Trial • Public Trial • Impartial Jury • Local Jury of Peers • Know the Accusation
Confront Witnesses • Obtain Witnesses in Your Favor • Assistance of Counsel (Lawyer)

Your group's #1 protection, and why:

Your group's #2 protection, and why:

Your group's #3 protection, and why: