

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.
Which Amendment Was Violated? (12–15 Minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Goal

Students match government actions with the constitutional amendment they violate.

Instructions

1. Divide students in pairs or small groups; allow 8–10 minutes to complete the scenarios.
2. Discuss as a class.

Key (Each Number is the Amendment Number)

- A. Congress places a 30-day waiting period for anyone who wants to buy a firearm. **2**
- B. Congress passes a law making it illegal to quote certain passages of the Bible in public, because they are said to be “hateful” to those with sinful lifestyles. **1**
- C. Federal officials argue that because the Bill of Rights does not list a right to choose one’s occupation, citizens have no such right. **9**
- D. Federal agents search a home without a warrant and seize property. **4**
- E. Bail is set at \$5 million for a teenager accused of stealing a bicycle. **7**
- F. Congress passes a law denying citizens from buying more than five knives per calendar year. **2**
- G. A defendant charged with a crime is denied the assistance of an attorney and receives no public trial. **6**
- H. Congress creates a national agency to license all neighborhood garage sales, claiming that any power not expressly forbidden belongs to the federal government. **9, 10**
- I. A person is put on trial twice for the exact same crime after being found not guilty the first time. **5**
- J. Federal officials say people have no right to homeschool their children because homeschooling is not specifically listed in the Constitution. **9**
- K. Federal agents search a man’s house without a warrant or probable cause. **4**
- L. The federal government claims it may control every local school policy because the Constitution does not specifically forbid it. **9, 10**
- M. A defendant is found not guilty of robbery. Prosecutors immediately put him on trial again for the same robbery. **5**
- N. Congress passes a law making it illegal to “excessively criticize the president.” **1**
- O. A criminal defendant is denied the right to have a lawyer. **6**

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Which Amendment Was Violated?

For each scenario, determine which amendment in the Bill of Rights was violated by the government.

Scenarios:

- A. Congress places a 30-day waiting period for anyone who wants to buy a firearm.
- B. Congress passes a law making it illegal to quote certain passages of the Bible in public, because they are said to be “hateful” to those with sinful lifestyles.
- C. Federal officials argue that because the Bill of Rights does not list a right to choose one’s occupation, citizens have no such right.
- D. Federal agents search a home without a warrant and seize property.
- E. Bail is set at \$5 million for a teenager accused of stealing a bicycle.
- F. Congress passes a law denying citizens from buying more than five knives per calendar year.
- G. A defendant charged with a crime is denied the assistance of an attorney and receives no public trial.
- H. Congress creates a national agency to license all neighborhood garage sales, claiming that any power not expressly forbidden belongs to the federal government.
- I. A person is put on trial twice for the exact same crime after being found not guilty the first time.
- J. Federal officials say people have no right to homeschool their children because homeschooling is not specifically listed in the Constitution.
- K. Federal agents search a man’s house without a warrant or probable cause.
- L. The federal government claims it may control every local school policy because the Constitution does not specifically forbid it.
- M. A defendant is found not guilty of robbery. Prosecutors immediately put him on trial again for the same robbery.
- N. Congress passes a law making it illegal to “excessively criticize the president.”
- O. A criminal defendant is denied the right to have a lawyer.

