



## Pathfinder: Amendments

amendment |əˈmen(d)mənt| noun

- a change or addition to a legal or statutory document : an **amendment to** existing bail laws.
- (**Amendment**) an article added to the U.S. Constitution : the *First Amendment*.

This pathfinder will help you research Amendments for your Social Studies classes.

### Search Tools:

When you are in the library you can use one of our two catalog lookup stations to find books that you need. From any computer in the high school you can use the same catalog by using the following URL 10.1.9.75:8080

### Introductory Materials:

Encyclopedias are a great way to start your research if you are not familiar with your subject. This will give you a quick explanation along with other terms and ideas to expand your search.

### Terms and Keywords:

Use Alexandria, our on-line catalog, to look for your book sources. You may try specific words to find your subject such as 'right to bear arms'. But also remember to think beyond your subject to broader terms such as 'amendments' and 'constitution' and use the index at the back of the book for your specific subject. The following are some terms you might want to use in your search:

Amendments  
Bill of Rights  
Constitution  
Supreme Court  
Articles of Confederation  
Court Cases

### Dewey Numbers:

We organize our books by the Dewey Decimal system. These are some of the areas you will find books on Amendments:

342 - Constitutional and Administrative Law  
342.73 - Bill of Rights

344 - Cultural Law  
347.73 - Supreme Court

## Reference

The books with reference stickers on them cannot be checked out, however, you may make copies of the pages you need from these books. Don't forget to make a copy of the title page for your works cited page. Here are a few reference books on Amendments.

REF 342.039 COM *The Complete Bill of Rights*  
REF 342.029 CON *The Constitution and Its Amendments*  
REF 342.029 FIN *The Constitution of the United States of America*  
REF 342.039 PEN *Constitutional Amendments*  
REF 342.039 VIL *Encyclopedia of Constitution Amendments*

When you google a topic you can literally get millions of websites. It is difficult to know whether you have a reputable website or not. Websites with the suffix .edu and .org are usually reliable. If you use .com sites, make sure they are credible. Here are some websites you can use:

<http://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm> - includes each amendment and links to historical documents

<http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Am22> - includes descriptions and explanations for each amendment

<http://www.ratical.org/co-globalize/BillOfRights.html> - provides an overview of each amendment and links to specific case laws for each amendment

[http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/bill\\_of\\_rights.html#more](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/bill_of_rights.html#more) - provides in-depth coverage of Bill of Rights, Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Charters

## Additional Reading:

The following books include plot lines which represent amendments. Although not written for this specific purpose or reason, these books offer an insight into what these amendments mean in daily life.

*The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* by Ernest Gaines (Amendment #13 - slavery)

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison (Amendment #13 -slavery)

*Runaway Jury* by John Grisham (Amendment #6 - fair trial)

*Before You Know Kindness* by Chris Bohjalian (Amendment #2 - right to bear arms)

*After* by Francine Prose (Amendment # 9 - rights of the people)

*The Given Day* by Dennis Lehane (Amendment #1 - petitions and assemblies)