

## Bill of Rights Political Cartoon

The United States Constitution has 27 Amendments. The first 10 Amendments to the Constitution are called the **Bill of Rights**. The Bill of Rights was **ratified**, or approved, in 1791. It outlines the basic rights and freedoms of American citizens.



<b>Amendment 1</b> The First Amendment protects the rights of every American. It defines the freedoms of religion, speech, and press. Most Americans believe that the First Amendment guarantees their most important rights.	<b>Amendment 6</b> A right to a speedy trial is guaranteed in the Sixth Amendment.
<b>Amendment 2</b> The Second Amendment guarantees Americans the right to bear arms, or own guns.	<b>Amendment 7</b> The Seventh Amendment guarantees the right to a trial by jury in civil, or private, legal cases where damages are more than \$20. Civil cases solve disputes between citizens.
<b>Amendment 3</b> The Third Amendment prevents the government from forcing citizens to shelter soldiers in their homes.	<b>Amendment 8</b> Unreasonable bail or fines and cruel and unusual punishment are prohibited in the Eighth Amendment.
<b>Amendment 4</b> The Fourth Amendment protects the privacy of American citizens. It prohibits, or prevents, unnecessary or unreasonable searches of a person's property.	<b>Amendment 9</b> The Ninth Amendment recognizes that Americans have rights that are not listed in the Constitution.
<b>Amendment 5</b> In the Fifth Amendment, all Americans are guaranteed the right to a fair and legal trial. It also protects someone from testifying against him- or herself under oath.	<b>Amendment 10</b> The Tenth Amendment says that the powers not given to the United States government by the Constitution belong to the states or to the people.

### Political Cartoons (A Review)



EXTRA CREDIT (Optional): You may create a second political cartoon from amendments 11-27. The same expectations apply ☺

A political cartoon is a cartoon that makes a point about a political issue or event. You can find them in any daily newspaper, but they won't be in the comics section.

Political cartoons can be very funny, especially if you understand the issue that they're commenting on. Their main purpose, though, is not to amuse you but to persuade you. A good political cartoon makes you think about current events, but it also tries to sway your opinion toward the cartoonist's point of view. The best political cartoonist can change your mind on an issue without you even realizing how he or she did it.

You are going to draw a political cartoon to depict one of the ten amendments in the Bill of Rights. You will **not write the actual amendment** on your cartoon, but **draw a picture that will showcase your amendment and what it stands for.** You will then write **the actual words to the amendment** on the back of your cartoon. (You may use the hornbook template (p. 3) included to draw the cartoon and complete the sentence frame (p. 4) Be sure to use one of the following **PERSUASIVE** techniques in communicating your amendment and message.

## Persuasive Techniques

### Symbolism

- Cartoonists use simple objects, or symbols, to stand for larger concepts or ideas.
- After you identify the symbols in a cartoon, think about what the cartoonist intends each symbol to stand for.

### Exaggeration

- Sometimes cartoonists overdo, or exaggerate, the physical characteristics of people or things in order to make a point.
- When you study a cartoon, look for any characteristics that seem overdone or overblown. (Facial characteristics and clothing are some of the most commonly exaggerated characteristics.) Then, try to decide what point the cartoonist was trying to make through exaggeration.

### Labeling

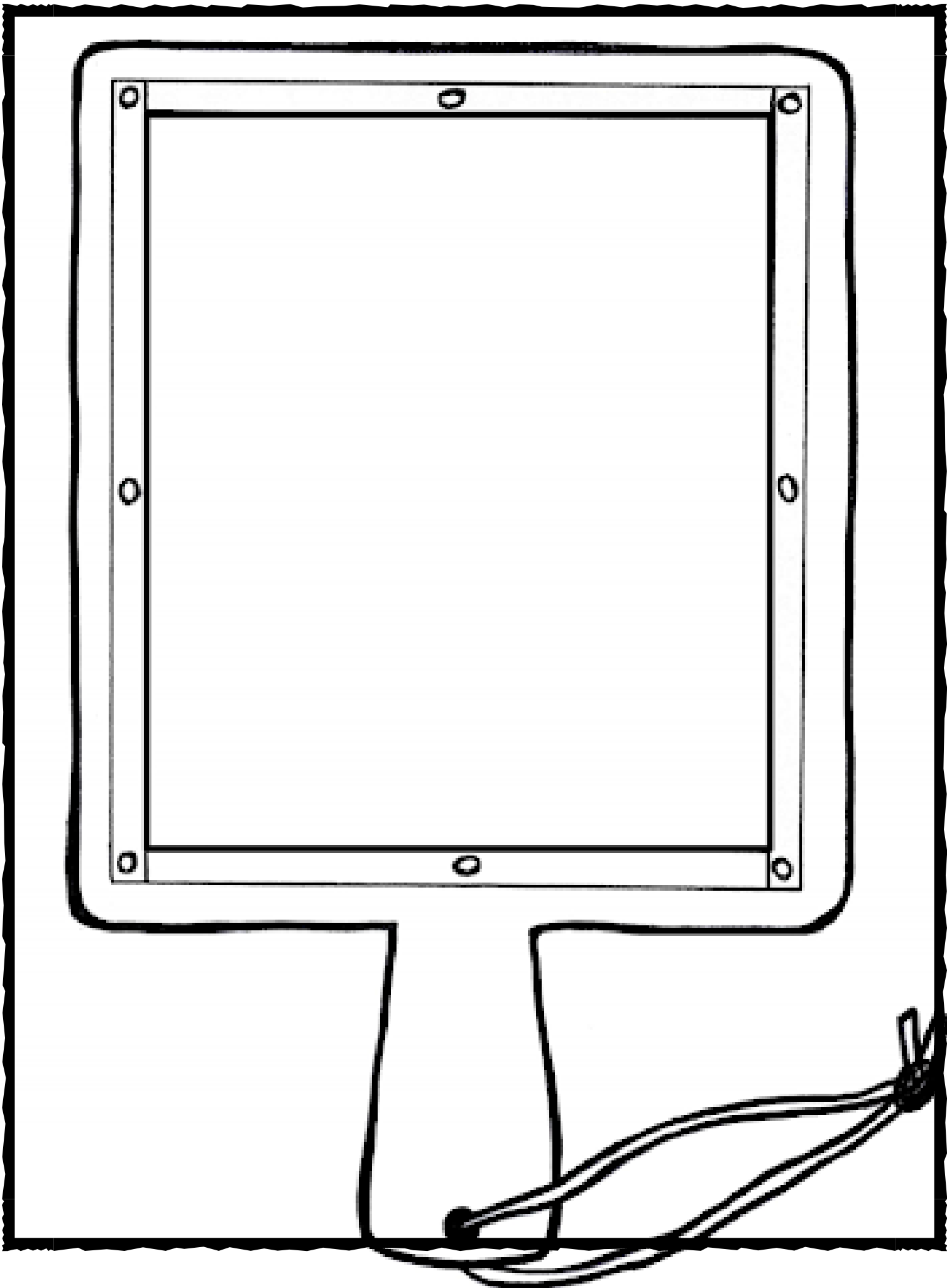
- Cartoonists often label objects or people to make it clear exactly what they stand for.
- Watch out for the different labels that appear in a cartoon, and ask yourself why the cartoonist chose to label that particular person or object. Does the label make the meaning of the object more clear?

### Analogy

- An analogy is a comparison between two unlike things that share some characteristics. By comparing a complex issue or situation with a more familiar one, cartoonists can help their readers see it in a different light.
- After you've studied a cartoon for a while, try to decide what the cartoon's main analogy is. What two situations does the cartoon compare? Once you understand the main analogy, decide if this comparison makes the cartoonist's point more clear to you.

### Irony

- Irony is the difference between the way things are and the way things should be, or the way things are expected to be. Cartoonists often use irony to express their opinion on an issue.
- When you look at a cartoon, see if you can find any irony in the situation the cartoon depicts. If you can, think about what point the irony might be intended to emphasize. Does the irony help the cartoonist express his or her opinion more effectively?



This cartoon represents amendment number \_\_\_\_\_.

Original language of amendment here:

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This amendment is important because

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_

Rubric:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| Persuasive Technique is evident   | _____/5  |
| Neatness (images are highly accurate, neat, full color,<br>and limited white space) | _____/10 |
| Amendment is evident in illustration  | _____/5  |
| Amendment is written in original language   | _____/5  |
| Importance of amendment included  | _____/5  |

Total: \_\_\_\_\_/30 points  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Rubric:

Persuasive Technique is evident \_\_\_\_\_/2  
Neatness (images are highly accurate, neat, full color,  
and limited white space) \_\_\_\_\_/10  
Amendment is evident in illustration \_\_\_\_\_/5  
Amendment is completely written on the back \_\_\_\_\_/5  
Name, Date, and Period are written on the back \_\_\_\_\_/3

Total: \_\_\_\_\_/25 points  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Rubric:

Persuasive Technique is evident \_\_\_\_\_/2  
Neatness (images are highly accurate, neat, full color,  
and limited white space) \_\_\_\_\_/10  
Amendment is evident in illustration \_\_\_\_\_/5  
Amendment is completely written on the back \_\_\_\_\_/5  
Name, Date, and Period are written on the back \_\_\_\_\_/3

Total: \_\_\_\_\_/25 points  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Rubric:

Persuasive Technique is evident \_\_\_\_\_/2  
Neatness (images are highly accurate, neat, full color,  
and limited white space) \_\_\_\_\_/10  
Amendment is evident in illustration \_\_\_\_\_/5  
Amendment is completely written on the back \_\_\_\_\_/5  
Name, Date, and Period are written on the back \_\_\_\_\_/3

Total: \_\_\_\_\_/25 points  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_