

CONSTITUTION DAY

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, (Pub. L. 108-447) requires educational institutions that receive Federal funds to hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17th of each year. This provision applies to all educational institutions receiving funds from any Federal agency.

First Institute acknowledges and recognizes the importance of observing Constitution Day at our institution. We have our students participate in a lesson plan that reviews different types of activities to help them expand their knowledge on our Constitution. Below are some examples of activities we had our students complete:

1. Introduction (3-4 minutes)

Ask: Why do we recognize Constitution Day? Explain that the U.S. Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787. It establishes the framework of the federal government and is the supreme law of the United States.

2. Constitution Basics (5-6 minutes)

Preamble: Briefly explain that the Preamble introduces the Constitution and states its broad purposes. It begins with the well-known words, "We the People."

Legislative	Congress - makes federal laws.
Executive	President and executive branch - carries out federal laws.
Judicial	Federal courts - interpret and apply the Constitution and federal laws in cases before them.

Selected rights/principles: Briefly review freedom of speech and religion (First Amendment), protection against unreasonable searches and seizures (Fourth Amendment), due process, and equal protection. Remind students that constitutional protections often concern government action; other federal and state laws may provide additional protections in school and the workplace.

3. Student Activity (5-7 minutes)

Use the Constitution Day 2026 Student Worksheet. Students may complete it individually or the instructor may read the scenarios aloud and discuss them as a class. For online live classes, screen-sharing or verbal discussion is sufficient. Review the three scenarios and the reflection question as time permits.

4. Wrap-Up (2 minutes)

Reinforce that the Constitution establishes the structure of the federal government and protects important rights and principles. Ask students to consider how constitutional principles continue to affect everyday civic life.

Optional Instructor Resource

For additional background or optional enrichment, instructors may use Constitution Day resources from the U.S. Department of Education, National Archives, or another reliable civic-education source. No additional activity is required.