

Constitution Day Resources September 17, 2017

*The **Nebraska State Bar Foundation** and the **Nebraska Supreme Court** join together to bring you resources for celebrating Constitution Day. Below are links to several outstanding websites with everything from general information about the United States Constitution to lesson plans for all grades.*

Classroom Activities and Resources for Teachers

Citizenship and Immigration Services

<http://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship>

- Citizenship Through Naturalization
- Citizenship Through Parents
- The Naturalization Test (includes online practice)
- Naturalization Ceremonies

Search the site for Resources for Teachers and Students.

iCivics

<http://www.icivics.org/>

Don't just learn civics—play civics with a host of online games. Also find curriculum units, lesson plans, and more resources by registering for a free account for this web-based resource that was founded by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

All Grades

Civics Renewal Network

<http://civicsrenewalnetwork.org/>

The Civics Renewal Network is an alliance of 26 nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations that provide free online classroom resources for civics education. Some of the partners include the American Bar Association, the Center for Civic Education, and the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Resources from all of the partners may be found from this website. A special Constitution Day section is available.

Center for Civic Education – Citizens, Not Spectators

<http://new.civiced.org/cns-teachers/lesson-plans>

This is a teacher-tested voter education curriculum. It provides lessons for upper elementary, middle, and high school classrooms.

Constitutional Rights Foundation

<http://www.crf-usa.org/constitution-day/constitution-day-lesson-plans-kindergarten-middle-and-high-school.html>

Provides free online resources including lessons for K-12. The K-2 lesson title is The Tired King. Grades 3-5 titles: Mr. Madison Needs Some Help, and Trouble in Gold Flats; Grades 6-8 titles: Rome: Republic to Empire; The Federalist Papers. Grades 9-12 titles: Aristotle: In Search of the Best Constitution; Diversity and Equality; Constitution and Governance; Foundations of Our Constitution; and Bill of Rights in Action Archive. Arizona's SB 1070 and State Policing of Immigration is news.

A Visitor from Outer Space is listed as being suitable for Grades 3-12. Additional resources for Grades 3-5 are Boston Plays with one-page scripts. For Grades 5-12, A More Perfect Union slide show prompts questions to be answered in pairs. Additional resources for secondary classrooms include The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom and The Major Debates of the Constitutional Convention. Teachers need to log in to access the free resources.

National Constitution Center

<http://constitutioncenter.org/constitution-day/>

On this site, find a new Interactive Constitution App—free!

Explore the Constitution's history and what it means today with leading constitutional scholars from across the legal and philosophical spectrum.

For fun, play the "Which Founder Are You?" game from this website.

Elementary

Scholastic

<http://www.scholastic.com>

From the home page, go to Teachers. Enter "Constitution Day" in the Search box, and you will be taken to lists of videos, books, and other resources. NOTE: The website also provides lessons and resources for middle and high school students.

Middle School

The Bill of Rights Institute

<http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/>

From the home page, select the Educate button, then Educator Resources. Here you will find free lesson plans, landmark Supreme Court cases, founding documents and more resources.

NOTE: Other lesson plans for middle and high school are provided on this web site.

High School

Annenberg Classroom

<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/>

New resources!

- A video about the Sixth Amendment’s “Confrontation Clause,” which gives the accused the right “to be confronted with the witnesses against him” at a criminal trial
- Preamble Challenge (with Teacher Toolkit)
- Free online course on the Constitution
- Teaching the Constitution brochure

The National Archives

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day/>

Find biographies of the 39 delegates who signed the Constitution; a simulation of the Constitutional Convention, issues related to ratification; reestablishment of the Navy; and fascinating facts about the Constitution. **Also: Teaching with Documents: U.S. Constitution Workshop** at <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-workshop/index.html>.

NOTE: Teaching with Documents provides resources suitable for grades 4-12.

Street Law, Inc.

<http://www.streetlaw.org>

From the home page, select Resource Library. Then, narrow your search for free resources by Availability, Type, Subject, Audience, or Program.

General Resources

The Library of Congress - THOMAS

<http://thomas.loc.gov/teachers/constitution.html>

Includes primary documents, lesson plans, and resources for all grade levels.

The Constitutional Sources Project

www.ConSource.org

The nonprofit, non-partisan online resource is designed for online research and education. It offers free public access to a comprehensive library of source documents related to the U.S. Constitution. Also offers lesson plans and a blog with late-breaking information.

U.S. Department of Education

<http://www2.ed.gov/free/features/constitution-day.html>

Constitution Day: 9 Ways for Kids to Learn About Our Nation’s History

Local Resources

Nebraska Supreme Court and Nebraska State Bar Foundation

Connecting teachers with judges and lawyers for classroom presentations

The Supreme Court and the Bar Foundation will assist teachers in securing an attorney or judge to visit the classroom and make a presentation. If you are not acquainted with a judge to invite to your classroom, contact Janet Bancroft, janet.bancroft@nebraska.gov. If you need assistance finding an attorney for a classroom visit, contact Doris Huffman, doris@nebarfnd.org.

Voters' Guide

<https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/media/voter>

A web page updated to include information on resources for the retention election of judges. The site explains what a retention election is and why Nebraska has retention elections.

Also, check out Secondary Classroom Resources that were prepared for the 2014, 2015, and 2016, and 2017 Law Day celebrations for secondary classes:

<http://nebarfnd.org/law-day-celebration.html>

The Bar Foundation will make its four-DVD set of the PBS series, *The Supreme Court*, available for loan to teachers. Simply send an email to cindy@nebarfnd.org to inquire about borrowing this resource for up to two weeks.

Nebraska State Bar Foundation's Mock Trial Cases

<http://www.nebarfnd.org/mock-trial>

2016 Mock Trial Case – *State of Nebraska vs. Blake M. Brando*

This criminal case decides whether Blake M. Brando did deliberately shoot and kill his/her co-writer of the stage play, *Burr*, while she was performing during the dress rehearsal of the play.

2015 Mock Trial Case – *Taylor Tomte vs. Estate of Orville Earhart*

This civil problem is about an unmanned aerial vehicle, or drone, crashing into and causing damage to several gnomes. The question is whether the Estate of Orville Earhart is liable for damages incurred by Taylor Tomte.

2014 Mock Trial Case – *State of Nebraska vs. Gayle/Gail Gardener*

This criminal case decides whether Gayle/Gail Gardener did cause the death of Cliff Stanley while s/he was intentionally damaging a building by starting a fire.

2013 Mock Trial Case - *Chris Deeds vs. Syl Wifferspoon*

This civil case involves allegations that the Defendant, by trying to force the Plaintiff out of his/her apartment, illegally discriminated against and cause personal injury to Plaintiff.

2012 Mock Trial Case – *State of Nebraska vs. Dakota Thundercloud*

This criminal case is about a high school teacher who is charged with bribing students to vote a particular way in a matter of local interest.

2011 Mock Trial Case – *Phoenix O. Perdante vs. Dalton Academy*

This is a civil case in which a student sues a rival mock trial school for slander when that coach's accusation of cheating costs a mock trial student a full ride scholarship to college.

2010 Mock Trial Case – *State of Nebraska vs. Alex B. Toakliss*

This criminal case involves the death of a college student at a Halloween party.

2009 Mock Trial Case - *IN THE MATTER OF Kev Inruser A23 571 113*

In removal proceedings

This civil case involves a foreign citizen in a removal proceeding. The process for the asylum seeker is complicated by evidence that he/she was involved in persecuting others under the now deposed government of his/her home country.

2008 Mock Trial Case – *State of Nebraska vs. Chris Byrd*

This criminal case involves procurement of alcohol for a minor.

2007 Mock Trial Case – *A & M Records, Inc., et al vs. K.C. Jones*. This civil case is a copyright infringement suit brought by several recording companies against a college student for allegedly downloading and sharing music.

2006 Mock Trial Case – *State of Nebraska vs. Willie Flounder*. A criminal case involving an attempted murder charge against a student for the shooting of another student. The defendant claims s/he was legally insane at the time of the incident. The case points up the problem of bullying and provides opportunities for discussing ways individuals and schools may respond.

2005 Mock Trial Case – *Pat Christianson vs. William Jennings Bryan Public High School*. A First Amendments rights case. It centers around the Student Council election at WJBHS where the principal, Dr. Eddie U. Cation, has told Pat that she will be allowed to participate as a candidate for student body president only if she eliminates her religious rhetoric from the campaign. Pat refuses to comply with the school's mandate to purge her campaign message of any religious references. She maintains that her First Amendment rights have been violated and seeks a resolution by filing a lawsuit. Also posted at this site are relevant case law summaries and suggested additional readings.

United States Courts

<http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-inspired/annual-observances/constitution-day.aspx>

YouTube video: Judiciary Celebrates Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

Also, a PDF of a Constitution Day Presentation. Additional information about the naturalization process and messages from federal judges who administer the Oath of Citizenship.

Other Resources

Nebraska Secretary of State – Elections

<http://www.sos.ne.gov/dyindex.html#boxingName>

By clicking on the Elections tab, you may access information for voters in the following categories:

- 2018 Elections
- General Voter Information
- Military Voters
- County Election Officials
- Overseas Voters
- Voter Information Center
- Information for Candidates
- Voter Forms
- Previous Elections
- Student Voters
- Information in Spanish
- Miscellaneous Links

Reaching the Age of Majority Booklet – Nebraska State Bar Foundation

<http://www.nebarfnd.org/age-of-majority>

Online booklet on rights and responsibilities for young people coming of age. This resource is also available in iBook format.

You the Juror – Nebraska State Bar Foundation

<http://www.nebarfnd.org/you-the-juror>

Free juror orientation video on DVD