



## SAVE YOUR RIGHTS

(45 minutes)

### OBJECTIVE

Students select the rights most important to them and develop a rationale for protecting Constitutional guarantees.

### MATERIALS

*Save Your Rights* handout; *Save Your Rights Scorecard* handout

### GET READY

- ✓ Duplicate one copy of the *Save Your Rights* handout, with the 10 rights listed, for each student.
- ✓ Copy the chart from the *Save Your Rights Scorecard* handout onto the board.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Distribute the *Save Your Rights* handout. Read the top of the handout aloud to your students.
- ✓ Review the 10 Bill of Rights guarantees by giving and asking for examples of what each right protects.
- ✓ Give each student five minutes to individually select the five rights that he/she wishes to keep, and to prioritize them (5=most valued, 1=least valued). One sentence justifying each choice must be written.
- ✓ For the next 15 minutes, allow students to share their selections in small groups and come to a consensus. Instruct each group to choose a group reporter to announce their selections and justifications.

- ✓ Record each group's numerical choices on the blackboard matrix, and total the values in each cell of the matrix. (See *Save Your Rights Scorecard* handout.)
- ✓ Review which rights the class deemed most important. Ask the students why they thought these rights were especially important.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Which right had the highest value to this class? Would a representative from a group that selected this right give us the group's rationale? (Continue discussing reasons for various choices.)*
- ★ *Which rights were not selected among our top five? Why not? How might your life change if we lost those rights?*
- ★ *What did you learn by making these choices?*
- ★ *What could happen to these rights if voters do not participate in choosing their leaders and lawmakers?*

### MORE!

Examine newspapers, television, magazines, etc., to look for examples of these rights being used.



## SAVE YOUR RIGHTS

What guarantees in the Bill of Rights are most important to you?

Imagine if our forefathers had not created all 10 rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. What if they had only created nine rights — which nine would you want kept? Now imagine if there were only eight rights created. Which would you keep? And what if there were only seven rights...six rights...only five rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights? Which could you not give up?

Designate five rights from the Bill of Rights as indispensable. First, decide which rights you will eliminate and then cross them off your list. Organize the remaining five rights from your most essential (5 points) to least essential (1 point).

**Ten of the Guarantees  
in the Bill of Rights**

Freedom of speech

Freedom of the press

Freedom of religion

Freedom to assemble

Right to bear arms

Protection from unreasonable searches and seizures

Protection from self-incrimination

Right to a jury trial

Protection from cruel and unusual punishment

Access to legal counsel

The following five rights should be saved:

5 points: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason:

4 points: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason:

3 points: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason:

2 points: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason:

1 point: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason:



## SAVE YOUR RIGHTS SCORECARD

Groups:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Speech									
Press									
Religion									
Assembly									
Arms									
Search/seizure									
Self-incrimination									
Jury trial									
Punishment									
Counsel									