

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 5: The Bill of Rights

5.6 Activity Guide

INCORPORATION ESSAY BY AKHIL AMAR

As ratified, the Bill of Rights only applied to abuses by the national government—not the states. However, following the ratification of the 14th Amendment and later decisions by the Supreme Court, the Bill of Rights became a charter of national freedom—applying key Bill of Rights protections (like free speech and religious liberty) to abuses by all levels of government: national, state, and local. This process is known as incorporation. Today, virtually all of the key protections enshrined in the Bill of Rights apply with equal vigor against all levels of government.

In this activity, you will explore the relationship between the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment and study the process of incorporation.

Read the following essay and record your notes using the tool below.

- Reading: ["The Privileges or Immunities Clause: America's Lost Clause" by Akhil Reed Amar](#)

Key Terms and Questions: <i>(After you've read the essay, write down key words or terms, and big ideas or questions.)</i>	Notes: <i>(While you read the essay, take notes in an outline format.)</i>
Summary: <i>(After you've read the essay, write a short paragraph summarizing it.)</i>	