

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 11: The Fourth Amendment: Privacy in a Digital Age, Policing in America, and Protections from Unreasonable Searches and Seizures
11.4 Activity Guide

JAMES OTIS, SPEECH ON THE WRITS OF ASSISTANCE

In this activity, you will learn more about the founding story of the Fourth Amendment and gain insight into the origins of the Fourth Amendment.

Read the [primary source by James Otis](#) (1761) and answer the following questions.

Who was James Otis?

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What did he argue?

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Define a “writ of assistance.”

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How does Otis’s speech play into the Fourth Amendment story?

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Name two state constitutions that influenced the Fourth Amendment? (optional)

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