

## Structure of the United States Constitution

- The Preamble to the Constitution has no force in law; instead, it establishes the "Why" of the Constitution. It reflects the desires of the framers to improve on the government they currently had (to be "more perfect" than the Articles of Confederation)
- Article 1 establishes the Legislature and outlines its powers and those it is denied (it is subdivided into articles and some articles are further divided into clauses).
- Article 2 establishes the Executive and outlines its powers and those it is denied (it is subdivided into articles and some articles are further divided into clauses)
- Article 3 establishes the Judiciary and outlines its powers and those it is denied (it is subdivided into articles and some articles are further divided into clauses)
- Article 4 concerns the states. All states will honor laws of other state and will treat citizens of other states equally. It outlines how states are admitted to the union and

guarantees a republican form of government (it is subdivided into articles and some articles are further divided into clauses).

- Article 5 details the method of amending, or changing, the Constitution.
- Article 6 concerns the United States itself. It sets the Constitution and all laws and treaties of the United States to be the supreme law of the country.
- Article 7 outlines the method for ratification, or acceptance, of the Constitution

## **The Amendments**

The first ten amendments to the Constitution were all adopted at the same time and are collectively known as the Bill of Rights.

There are currently 27 amendments to the Constitution