



ARTICLE V EXPLAINED

In Article V, the founders set out a two-step process for amending the Constitution. There is a proposal phase and a ratification phase, with two different pathways for each phase. Working with a partner, take a closer look at the text of Article V. As you read, look for words or phrases that are clues to help you understand the two different amendment pathways for each phase. Use two different pens or highlighters to identify the two paths for each phase in the text.

Article V

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

MS CONSTITUTION 101

Module 15: Article V and the 27 Amendments

15.2: Article V Explained

When you have finished, work together to complete the missing spaces in the flow charts below.

