



## Scholar Exchange: Voting Rights Amendments Class Outline and Worksheet

### INTERACTIVE CONSTITUTION RESOURCES

- Resources for [Voting Rights Amendments](#)

### CLASS OUTLINE

- CONSTITUTIONAL STORY WALK
- PART I: FOUNDING STORIES: WHO CAN VOTE?
- PART III: CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF VOTING RIGHTS IN POST-CIVIL WAR AMERICA
- PART IV: THE SUPREME COURT AND VOTING RIGHTS

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What does the Constitution say about voting rights? What's in there, and what isn't? Who can vote in America (and when)?
- Before the Constitution, who could vote, and which level of government controlled the vote? (Federalism)
- How did Reconstruction transform voting rights in America? What were its limits?

### BIG TAKEAWAYS

- The Original Constitution left voting issues largely to the states. It's a story of federalism/state power. Several amendments extend protections to new groups, including protections based on race (Fifteenth Amendment), gender (Nineteenth Amendment), and age (Twenty-Sixth Amendment). While the states still play a central role in elections, various amendments establish an increased role for the national government in some contexts—most notably, through the enforcement clauses of the Fifteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments. (This is still a federalism story.)

**PART I: A CONSTITUTIONAL STORY WALK**

Voting in the Constitution	
What is one place that voting is mentioned in the <u>Original Constitution</u> ?	
What does it say about voting?	
What is one voting <u>amendment</u> that has been added to the Constitution?	
What does it say about voting?	

**PART II: FOUNDING STORIES: WHO CAN VOTE?**

Founding Generation	Age of Jackson (1820s–1830s)	Seneca Falls Convention (1848)
What was a common requirement for voters during this time?	What group of people gained the right to vote during this time?	What was the goal of the people attending this convention?



**PART III: CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF VOTING RIGHTS IN POST-CIVIL WAR AMERICA**

How did the Reconstruction era transform voting rights?	
What were some outcomes of these transformations?	

**PART IV: THE SUPREME COURT AND VOTING RIGHTS**

What is one Supreme Court case that addresses individual voting rights?	
How did the Supreme Court rule in that case?	
What is another issue regarding voting rights that the Supreme Court has addressed?	
What is a Supreme Court case about that issue?	
How did the Supreme Court rule in that case?	