

Operation Protect & Defend 2021-2022 Program

Examining the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Teacher Packet

Thank you for participating in Operation Protect and Defend. This packet is a guide for teachers to cover the materials prior to the visit from the lawyer / judge teams for the Dialogue. Although this packet contains guidelines, you are free to work with the material in a way that makes the most sense for your class(es). Indeed, there are more readings and activities than some classes may finish in 3 days. You can decide how to assign to your students. Though, to ensure a fruitful Dialogue, please make every effort to cover the lessons. Note that we have added some supplement material to provide additional background information for teachers.

The focus of this year's curriculum is the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms. This can be a politically charged topic. We hope that leading discussions about gun rights will engage students in a thoughtful way.

Day 1: Background

- Introduce the unit by discussing the historical context for the 2nd Amendment.
- Students should complete the vocabulary before beginning the readings (perhaps assign as homework BEFORE Day 1).
- Assign first reading: "Background on Common Interpretation" from the National Constitution Center and have students respond to the question

Day 2: *District of Columbia v. Heller*

- Assign reading: Facts of the Case: *District of Columbia v. Heller*
- Students in small groups can discuss the case and write a new version of the 2nd Amendment. (Critical thinking question at the end of the reading)
- Follow with a whole class discussion.
- If time permits, have students interpret political cartoon #1.

Day 3: *McDonald v. City of Chicago*

- Assign reading: *McDonald v. City of Chicago*
- Discuss how this case is different from *District of Columbia v. Heller*
- For the two remaining cases, have students read the Facts of the Case. If necessary, perhaps assign one as homework. If time does not permit, choose one case.
- *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen*: students read the Facts of the Case and write their own majority opinion (this case has not been decided; the Supreme Court is hearing oral arguments this fall). Students should include a rationale for their ruling.
- *Miller v. Bonta*: read Facts of the Case and complete the Critical Thinking Question.
- Finally, political cartoon # 2 as a wrap up is available in the packet.