

FALL SEMESTER REVIEW

REMINDER

MIDTERM EXAMS DUE DECEMBER 20TH

INTRODUCTION TO LAW & U.S. GOVERNMENT

Three Branches of Government

Legislative Branch

Definition: The branch responsible for making laws.

COMPONENTS:

Congress: Made up of two houses:

House of Representatives:

- Members based on state population (total 435 members).
- Terms: 2 years.
- Responsibilities: Introduce revenue bills, impeach federal officials.

Senate:

- 2 senators from each state (total 100 members).
- Terms: 6 years.
- Responsibilities: Confirm presidential appointments, ratify treaties, conduct trials for impeached officials.

Major Powers: Create laws, Declare war. Control federal budget, Regulate interstate and foreign commerce.

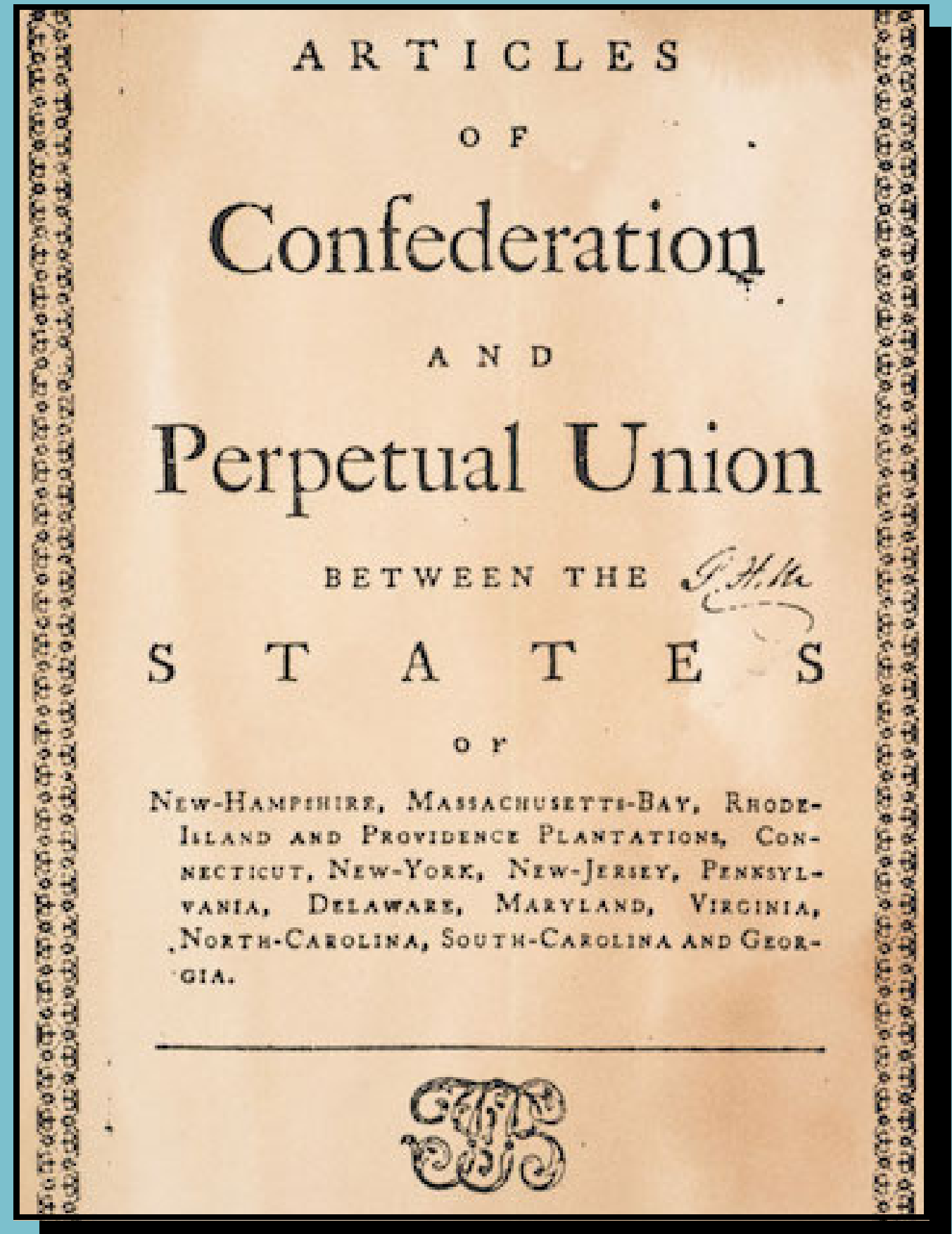
DIGITAL NOTEBOOK EXAMPLE NOTES



**DUE: DECEMBER 13TH
WORTH 500 POINTS**

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

The Articles of Confederation were the first governing document of the United States, adopted in 1781. They created a loose union of sovereign states, with a weak central government that had limited powers.





THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The U.S. Constitution, adopted in 1787, established the framework for the federal government of the United States. It created a system of checks and balances through three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. The Constitution outlines the powers of each branch, protects individual rights through the Bill of Rights, and serves as the supreme law of the land, ensuring a balance between federal and state authority. It has been amended 27 times to address evolving needs and issues.

BILL OF RIGHTS

The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1791. It guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms, such as freedom of speech, religion, and the press, as well as protections against unreasonable searches and seizures, self-incrimination, and cruel and unusual punishment. The Bill of Rights was added to ensure the protection of individual liberties and limit the power of the federal government.

Bill of Rights Congress of OF THE United States, *begun and held at the City of New York, on Wednesday, the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.*

The Conventions of a number of the States having, at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution:

Resolved, by the SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, That the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; all, or any of which articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, viz.

Articles in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the Original Constitution.

Article the first After the first enumeration required by the first Article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred, after which, the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall be not less than one hundred Representatives, nor less than one Representative for every forty thousand persons, until the number of Representatives shall amount to two hundred, after which, the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than two hundred Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons. [Not Ratified]

Article the second No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened. [Not Ratified]

Article the third Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article the fourth A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article the fifth No Soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article the sixth The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article the seventh ... No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or Naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case, to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

Article the eighth In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

Article the ninth In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact, tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article the tenth Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article the eleventh .. The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article the twelfth The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

ATTEST,

John Beckley - Clerk of the House of Representatives

Sam. A. Otis Secretary of the Senate

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg Speaker of the House of Representatives.
John Adams, Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.



3 BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

The U.S. government is divided into **three branches** to ensure a system of checks and balances:

1. **Legislative Branch (Congress)** makes laws. It consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
2. **Executive Branch (President)** enforces laws and manages the federal government.
3. **Judicial Branch (Supreme Court and other courts)** interprets laws and ensures they are applied fairly.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Legislative Branch, primarily represented by Congress, **is responsible for making laws**. Congress is a bicameral body, consisting of the **Senate (with 100 members, two from each state)** and the **House of Representatives (with 435 members based on population)**. It has the power to draft and pass laws, approve the federal budget, and declare war. The Legislative Branch also has oversight powers, including the ability to impeach and remove federal officials, including the president.





EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Executive Branch is responsible for **enforcing and carrying out laws** passed by Congress. It is headed by the **President**, who also serves as the Commander-in-Chief of the military, oversees foreign policy, and appoints key officials, including members of the Cabinet and federal judges. **The Vice President and various federal agencies** assist the President in administering government functions.

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Judicial Branch **interprets and applies the laws** to ensure they are upheld fairly and justly. It is headed by the **Supreme Court**, the highest court in the United States, and includes lower federal courts. The judicial branch has the power to review laws and executive actions to determine their constitutionality through the process of judicial review. Its role is to protect individual rights and ensure that laws are applied consistently across the country.





CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES

Civil rights refer to the protections and privileges that ensure individuals are treated equally under the law, such as the right to vote, access to education, and freedom from discrimination. Civil liberties are the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, like freedom of speech, religion, and protection from unreasonable searches. Together, they safeguard individual freedoms and ensure equality and justice in society.



LANDMARK CASES

Landmark cases are significant legal cases that have a major impact on the interpretation of the law or the Constitution. These cases often set important legal precedents, shaping future court decisions and influencing societal norms and government policies.

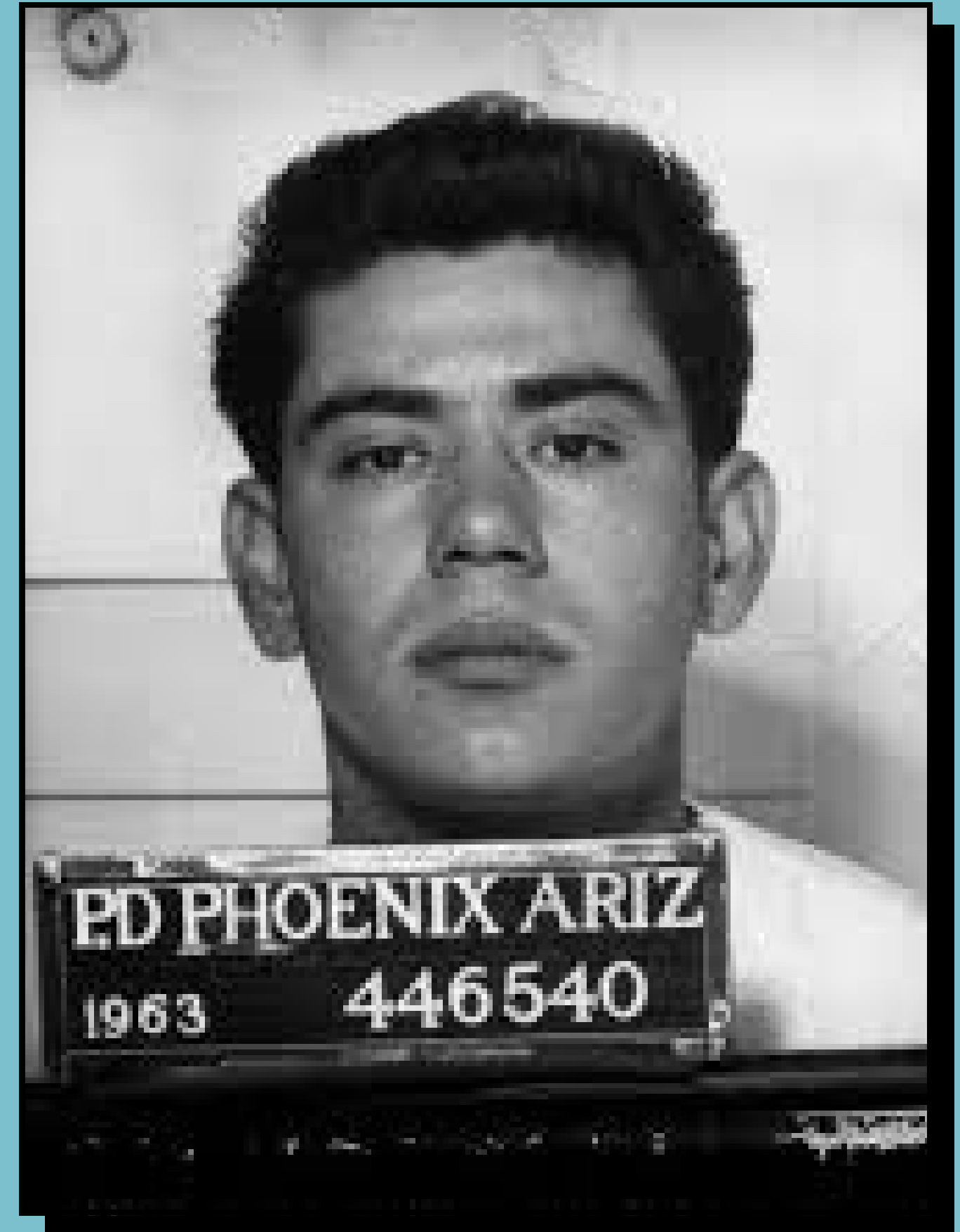
BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Brown v. Board of Education (1954) was a landmark Supreme Court case that declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. The Court ruled that "separate but equal" facilities were inherently unequal, overturning the earlier Plessy v. Ferguson decision and mandating the desegregation of schools across the United States.



MIRANDA V. ARIZONA

Miranda v. Arizona (1966) was a landmark Supreme Court case that established the requirement for law enforcement to inform suspects of their rights before interrogation. The Court ruled that individuals must be told of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney, protecting against self-incrimination under the Fifth Amendment. This led to the creation of the "Miranda rights" warning.



ROE V. WADE

Roe v. Wade (1973) was a landmark Supreme Court case in which the Court ruled that a woman has a constitutional right to choose to have an abortion under the **right to privacy**, which is implied by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The decision legalized abortion nationwide, but allowed states to regulate abortions, especially after the first trimester. This ruling was overturned in 2022 by Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, which returned the power to regulate abortion to individual states.



FIRST AMENDMENT

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects fundamental freedoms, including **freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly**, and the right to **petition the government**. It ensures individuals can express their ideas and beliefs without government interference or censorship, forming the foundation of American democracy.



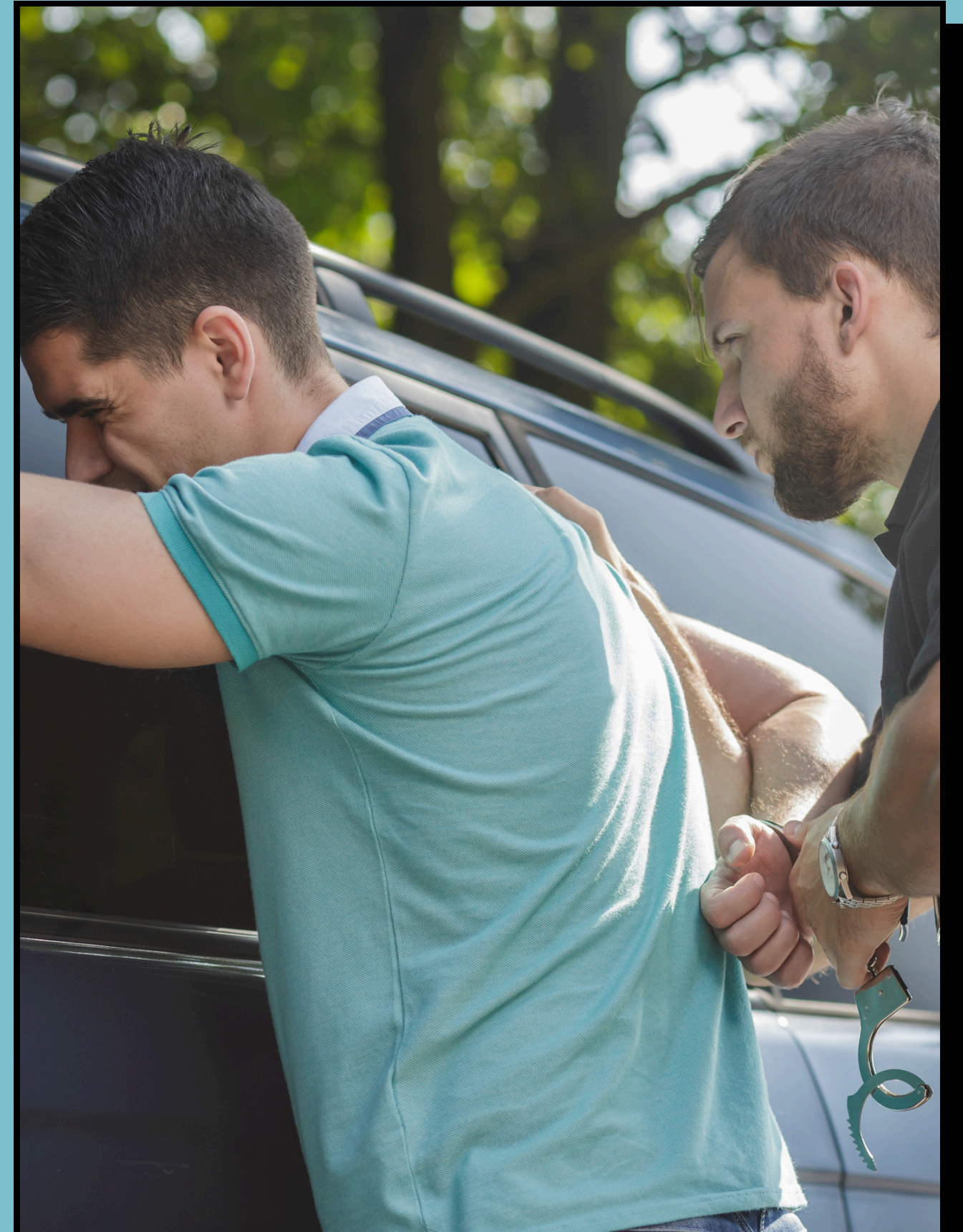
SECOND AMENDMENT

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects the right of individuals to keep and **bear arms**. It was originally intended to ensure the ability to maintain a well-regulated militia, but over time has been interpreted to also guarantee individual gun ownership rights, subject to certain regulations and restrictions.



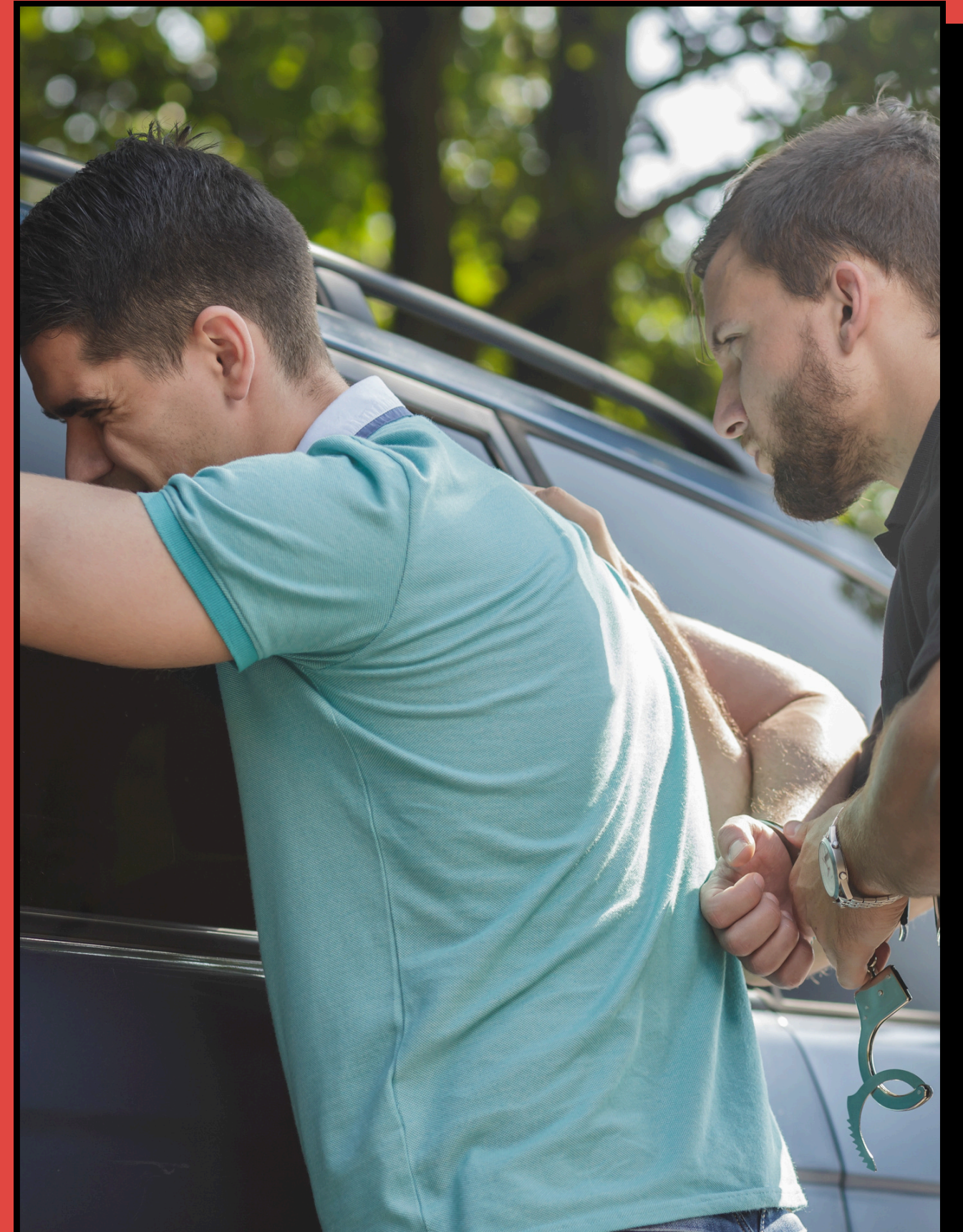
FOURTH AMENDMENT

The Fourth Amendment **protects individuals from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government.** It requires law enforcement to obtain a warrant, based on probable cause, before conducting searches or seizing property, ensuring privacy and security against arbitrary government actions.



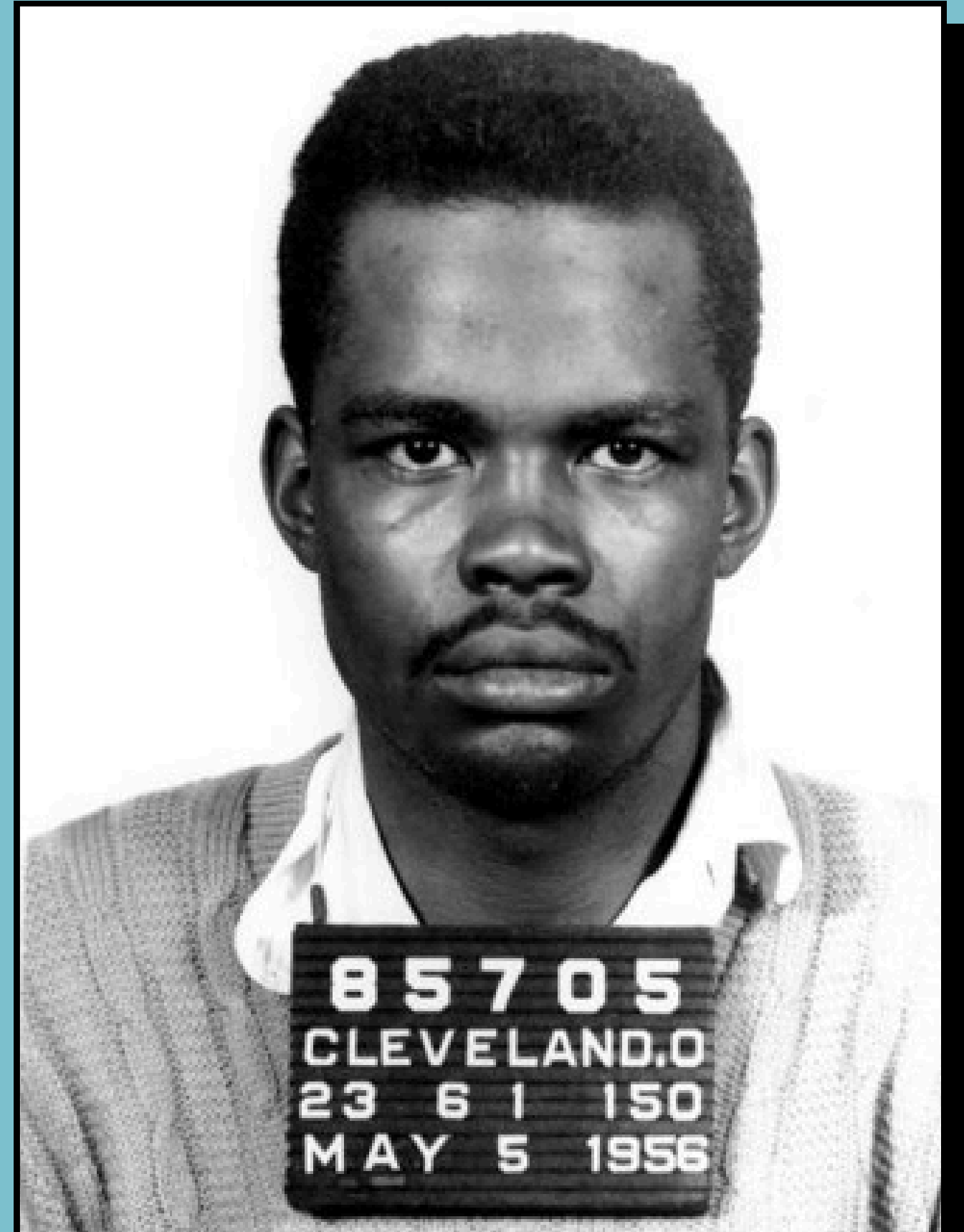
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TERRY V. OHIO

Terry v. Ohio (1968) was a landmark Supreme Court case in which the Court ruled that law enforcement officers could **stop and frisk** individuals without a warrant or probable cause if they had a reasonable suspicion that the person might be involved in criminal activity and could be armed. The decision created the "stop-and-frisk" rule, allowing limited searches to ensure officer safety while balancing Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches.



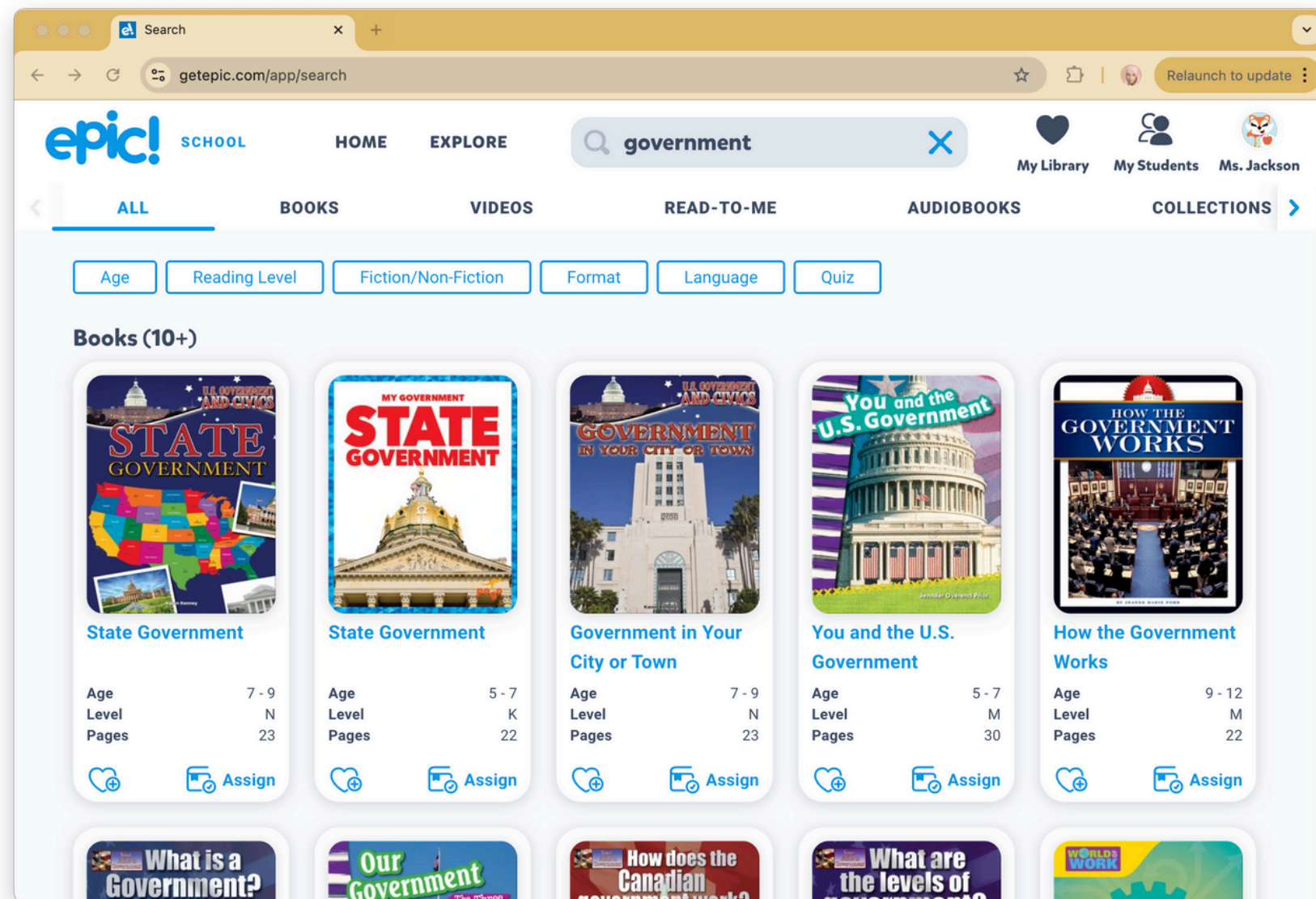
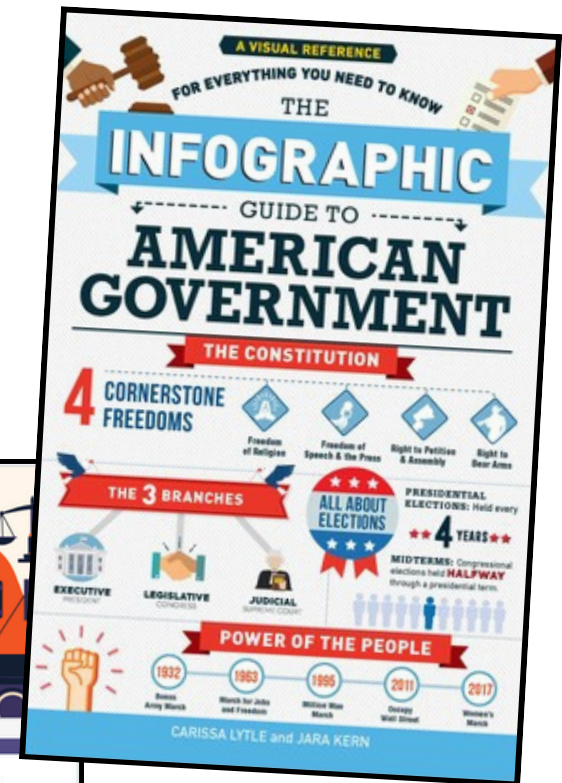
FIFTH AMENDMENT

The Fifth Amendment protects several important rights, including the right against **self-incrimination** (you cannot be forced to testify against yourself), **the right to due process of law** (fair treatment through the judicial system), and protection against **double jeopardy** (being tried twice for the same crime). It also includes the eminent domain clause, which ensures that private property cannot be taken for public use without fair compensation.



DON'T FORGET

Quizlet



Intro to Law & U.S. Gov | **MIDTERMS** [Fall Semester]

SECTION 1: U.S. Government

sam@abule.email [Switch account](#)

Not shared

* Indicates required question

Student name: *

Your answer

What is the foundational document of American law? *

1 point

- ☐ Articles of Confederation
- ☐ Declaration of Independence
- ☐ Federalist Papers

