

Constitution Corner #1 Preamble

Let's make this simple by learning just **five concepts** of the Constitution each month, using 10 or 15 minutes (a small corner) of your monthly program. At the end of the year, attendees of the Washington Federation of Republican Women's clubs will have learned 60 facts about our Constitution!

Each Club member participating will need a copy of the Constitution for the duration of the class. This can be downloaded from the Internet, or if you have one, pocket Constitutions are ideal. So, choose a good teacher in your group (or a different one each month) and just read and **do!!**

[Instructions to teachers are in brackets, italics, and red.]

TEACHER:

Be sure that you have in front of you your pocket or downloaded Constitution, a notepad (or paper) and pencil - and here we go...

First of all, how many articles do you guess, by raise of hand, are in our Federal Constitution?

How many think 107 Articles?

... 57 Articles?

...7 Articles?

Scan through your Constitution and discover which answer is correct. Raise your hand when you know!!!

ANSWER: The Earth was created in 7 days. Our Constitution contains only 7 articles, created by the genius, research, and inspiration of our liberty loving Founding Fathers.

And speaking of the number 7, does anyone know the date that the Constitution was written? You can find the answer by looking in Article 7, the *last* paragraph in the original Constitution. When you find it, raise your hand and tell us.

[Give time for response. Sept 17, 1787]

There are lots of sevens in that date, and September sounds like seven. This should be a national holiday, don't you think? The Federal Constitution does not need a preponderance of thousands of laws, because those more technical laws are to be handled by each sovereign state.

"Sovereign" definition: each state is a mini country with an independent government of its own. The sovereign states in our USA Country have united for protection, unity, justice, prosperity, and peace between states. See & read **THE PREAMBLE** in your Constitution.

[Allow/ask someone to read The Preamble. Show a demonstration of a way to memorize the preamble by showing hand motions.]

Back to our **7 articles** -- There is actually a fun way, an acronym, to memorize the subject of each of those 7 Articles of our Constitution.

Here is the acronym word: **"LEJ - SA\$R"**. Write it down

[Spell it out, including the hyphen and the dollar sign.]

Now number each letter in that new word from one to seven. Write it again vertically, using numbers again. Add in the subject like this:

[Go slow in allowing enough time for each member to write the following as you speak it. Or write this on a large piece of paper in big letters, or on a white/black board for them to copy.]

1. L -- Legislature
2. E -- Executive
3. J -- Judicial

4. S -- States
5. A-- Amendments
6. \$ -- Supremacy Clause
7. R -- Ratification

These are the subjects that we will study this year! The first three are easy to memorize, while the last four need more brain work to remember. 😊

Try to memorize this word, LEJ-SA\$R. Think of it as another Star Wars character's name, like Darth Vader or Luke Skywalker. Or -- think how "We The People" are the "**sassers**" of our legislators. "WE" tell them what "WE" want to do! Say it several times and teach it to your children and/or grandchildren or spouse, friend, etc.! (The best way to remember something is to teach it, right?)

Now you have learned 5 basic concepts about your US Constitution today. For review, can you raise your hand to name one or two concepts of the Constitution you learned today?

[If time, try acting out the preamble again, in hand motions as shown in the handout.]

Thanks for participating and come back for more next month, with a bonus of understanding the powers of Congress vs. the President!! Hmmm....

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