



**Film and Book Resources about the U.S. Constitution
Available for Loan to MTSU Faculty**

Sunnylands Seminars Video Resources on the Constitution:

- ***The Constitution Project: An Independent Judiciary*** – This film chronicles two key moments that defined our understanding of the role of the judiciary: the Cherokee Nation’s struggles before the Supreme Court in the 1830s to preserve its homeland, and Cooper v. Aaron, the 1958 Supreme Court case that affirmed that states were bound to follow the Court’s order to integrate their schools. *An Independent Judiciary* features Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and some of the nation’s leading Constitutional scholars.
- ***A Conversation on the Constitution: Judicial Independence*** – Judicial independence is a cornerstone of democracy, guaranteed by the Constitution and enshrined in our system of government. In a conversation with students, three Supreme Court Justices discuss the Constitution and the role of judges who are sworn to uphold the laws of this nation and to protect the rights of all citizens.
- ***A Conversation with Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. on the Origin, Nature, and Importance of the Supreme Court*** – The establishment of a federal judiciary was a top priority for this nation’s founding fathers. In December 2006, Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts, Jr. and a group of high school students participated in a conversation about the high court – from its history and evolution to the methods Justices use in selecting and hearing cases to the role of an independent judiciary and other issues crucial to a healthy democracy today.
- ***A Conversation on the Constitution with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Fourteenth Amendment*** – Incorporating three integral constitutional tenets – due process, equal protection, and privileges and immunities – the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was originally intended to secure rights for former slaves, but over the years it has been expanded to protect all persons. In December 2006, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and a group of students gathered at the Supreme Court to discuss the importance of the Fourteenth Amendment and how it came to embody and protect the principle of “We the People.”
- ***Key Constitution Concepts*** – These three 20-minute videos examine key constitutional concepts. The first explains why the nation’s framers created the Constitution. The second describes the protection of individual rights by

highlighting the Supreme Court case of *Gideon v. Wainwright*, affirming the right to an attorney. The last explores the separation of powers by examining the Supreme Court case of *Youngstown v. Sawyer*, a challenge to President Truman's decision to take over steel mills during the Korean War.

- ***Mandate The President and the People*** – This 35-minute video, narrated by veteran CBS News correspondent Lesley Stahl, examines the long and complex relationship between the presidency and public opinion. Scholars explore decisive moments in the history of the presidency from George Washington to FDR.
- ***Our Constitution: A Conversation*** – In the Summer of 1787, delegates to the Constitutional Convention gathered in Philadelphia to create a document that would establish the government of the United States. On September 17, that landmark document was signed into law. This conversation on the Constitution, taped in 2005, is the first in a series produced by the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnyslands for use in classrooms on Constitution Day.

Sunnyslands Seminars Books on the Constitution:

- ***Our Documents*** – tells the story of the United States – from its birth as a new nation to its emergence as a superpower – through this collection of 100 landmark documents, most drawn from the collections of the National Archives.
- ***Our Rights*** – explores twenty-three major rights of American citizens guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Each chapter traces how a particular right has evolved as a result of legislation, social changes, and landmark Supreme Court cases.
- ***Our Constitution*** – The constitution itself is presented in a clear and attractive layout, in which every clause of the original seven articles and all twenty-seven amendments, including the Bill of Rights, is clearly explained in a consistent What It Says / What It Means format. Lavishly illustrated with more than 300 news photos, cartoons, paintings, and memorabilia will enable readers to appreciate the meaning of a constitution written in the name of “We the People.”
- ***The Pursuit of Justice – Supreme Court Decisions That Shaped America*** - explores the landmark decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that have profoundly affected the course of American history.