

# The Fight For Our New Constitution

## Influences of the Bill of Rights

Students will use primary source documents or excerpts from documents to identify the influences of the Bill of Rights. The documents being interpreted are

- the Virginia Declaration of Rights,
- the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, and
- the US Constitution.

**Struggling Students:** Allow these students to use the excerpts to help facilitate their focus on the passages they need to interpret. Also have them work in pairs or small groups. Provide as much guidance as possible.

**Advanced Learners:** Allow these students to use the links listed on the Technology handout for the primary source documents to find the passages they need to identify as direct influences on the Constitution. If time is an issue, they may also work in pairs or small groups to find the information and to discuss meanings of passages.

**Post Assessment:** One Plus One Equal Ten: Students will see how the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom influenced the Bill of Rights by matching sections of these documents to the corresponding amendments in the Bill of Rights.

**Technology:** Links to primary documents:

- ! Virginia Declaration of Rights: <http://www.history.org/almanack/life/politics/varights.cfm>
- ! Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom: <https://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/virginia-statute-religious-freedom>
- ! John Marshall's On the Federal Constitution at the Virginia Ratifying Convention: <http://www.bartleby.com/268/8/21.html>
- ! US Constitution: <http://constitution.findlaw.com/>