

# THE WORDS THAT BUILT AMERICA: STUDENT ACTIVITY

## IS THIS CONSTITUTIONAL?

Read each of the following excerpts from the United States Constitution. If possible, watch the corresponding part of *The Words That Built America*. Consider whether the situations provided are constitutional. Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text.

### “THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH,” STARTING AT 18:40

#### EXCERPT:

*(Article 1, Section 7)* All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

#### SCENARIO:

The House of Representatives passes a bill to increase the federal income tax.  
**IS THIS CONSTITUTIONAL?**

### “THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH,” STARTING AT 25:19

#### EXCERPT:

*(Article 1, Section 9)* No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

#### SCENARIO:

The king of another country wants to honor the vice president by naming him or her Chief Court Advisor. **IS THIS CONSTITUTIONAL?**

### “THE STATES,” STARTING AT 37:07

#### EXCERPT:

*(Article 4, Section 4)* The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

#### SCENARIO:

A state is facing an emergency, and the governor asks the president to send troops to help.  
**IS THIS CONSTITUTIONAL?**

### “DEBTS, SUPREMACY, OATHS,” STARTING AT 40:26

#### EXCERPT:

*(Article 6)* The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

#### SCENARIO:

A law is proposed to prevent people of a certain religion from serving in the government.  
**IS THIS CONSTITUTIONAL?**