



**Social Studies Grade 9
Scoring Guide for
Released Item #22
Updating the United States Constitution
Fall 2005**



INQUIRY AND DECISION MAKING

Directions: Read the following information about a public policy issue. Use it with what you already know to complete the tasks that follow. You should take about 20 minutes to complete both Task I and Task II.

UPDATING THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

The Constitution remains the central founding document of the United States. Many people argue, however, that the language is outdated and that it should be rewritten to keep up with changing times, just as some states have done with their constitutions. Read the following information on using non-gender specific language in the United States Constitution.

DATA SECTION

Part A

Some State Constitutions With and Without Gender Identification		
State	Year of Last Rewrite or Revision	Gender Identification
Maryland	1867	With
Alabama	1901	With
Alaska	1956	With
Michigan	1963	With
Arizona	1992	Without
Georgia	1982	Without
Florida	1998	Without

Current Language from the United States Constitution:

Section 1. The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same term, be elected, as follows . . .

Possible Change in Language of the United States Constitution to exclude gender:

Section 1. The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. The President shall hold office during the term of four years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same term, be elected, as follows . . .

DATA SECTION (continued)

Part B

Changes in Some Job Titles to Exclude Gender Identification:	
Old Title	New Title
Fireman	Fire Fighter
Fisherman	Fisher
Mailman	Mail Carrier
Policeman	Police Officer

Source: Dictionary of Occupational Titles

Task II: Taking a Stand

- 22 You will now take a stand on the following public policy issue: **Should the United States Congress propose an amendment allowing the United States Constitution to be rewritten without gender identifications?** You may either support or oppose allowing the Constitution to be rewritten with updated language. Write a letter to your congressional representative.

You will be graded on the following criteria. Your letter must include:

- a clear and supported statement of your position;
- supporting information using a core democratic value of American constitutional democracy;
- supporting knowledge from history, geography, civics (other than the core democratic values), or economics (it is not enough to state only your opinion); and
- supporting information from the Data Section.

Remember to: Use complete sentences.
Explain your reasons in detail.
Explain how the core democratic value you use connects to your position.
Write or print neatly on the lines provided in your **Answer Folder**. No additional sheets may be used

ANSWER THIS ITEM IN YOUR ANSWER FOLDER.

NOTHING WRITTEN IN THIS TEST BOOKLET WILL BE SCORED.

Holistic Feature Scoring of Civic Writing

- 4** In order to receive a 4-point score, the response must
1. Give a clearly stated position on the issue and support their position (**P-Stated**)
 - Students should use words such as support/oppose, for/against, agree/disagree, or should/should not
 - Do not accept those who do not take a stand, who say someone else (parents, school, or government) should decide the issue
 2. Provide at least one supporting point that is based on the core democratic values of American constitutional democracy (**CDV**)
 - Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position
 3. Provide at least one piece of accurate, important and relevant supporting social studies information that comes from the student's prior knowledge of civics, economics, geography, or history (information other than that supplied by the Data Section or a core democratic value) (**PK**)
 - Do not accept feelings or opinions for this element
 - Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position
 4. Provide at least one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section (**D**)
 - Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position
 - Data interpretations must be more right than wrong
- 3** In order to receive a 3-point score, the response must
- give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue
 - contain at least 2 of the remaining 3 elements
- 2** In order to receive a 2-point score, the response must
- give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue
 - contain at least 1 of the remaining 3 elements
- 1** In order to receive a 1-point score, the response must
- give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue
- 0** In order to receive a 0-point score, the response will show no evidence of any of the elements

NOTE: The supporting points used by students must be explained in enough detail to show a clear connection to the position taken.

Condition codes for unratable papers (zeroes):

A – Off Topic

B – Written in a Language other than English or Illegible

C – Blank or Refusal to Respond

Anchor Paper 1 – Score Point 4

65 Should the United States Congress propose an amendment allowing the United States Constitution to be rewritten without gender identifications?

Dear United States Representative:

I think the United States Congress should propose an amendment allowing the United States Constitution to be rewritten without gender identifications. Equality is one Core Democratic Value that can be used to support my position. This supports me because everyone has the right to be treated the same, and it's not fair if (for example) a woman is elected President and she is

referred to as He in the Constitution. When the women did their movement for equal rights, like voting, that was sort of like this, because all they wanted was to be treated equally and all we want is a Constitution that does not refer to everyone as a male. In the most current revisions, things were not gender identified. It doesn't appear to be too big of a problem to change words like fireman to firefighter. I mean, the job is still the same, but the name is a little more open. Thank-you for your time.

Sincerely,

Anchor Paper 1
Score Point 4

Position-Clearly stated: *...should propose an amendment allowing the...Constitution to be rewritten without gender identifications.* Supported below.

Core Democratic Value-Provided and explained: *Equality...everyone has the right to be treated the same,...*

Prior Knowledge-provides one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting social studies information that comes from student's prior knowledge: *...women did their movement for equal rights, like voting, that was sort of like this...*

Data-provides (more than) one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information: *...President...is referred to as He in the Constitution....In the most current revisions, things were not gender identified....change words like fireman to firefighter...*

Anchor Paper 2 – Score Point 4

Dear United States Representative:

I believe that Congress should propose an amendment allowing the US Constitution to be rewritten without gender identifications. The CDV Equality supports my decision because the way the constitution is currently written, it implies that only men can hold the office of US President, and that therefore women are inferior. I know that in reality, women are able to run for President and other high offices such as Governor and Senator. Also, this would not change the meaning of the constitution in any way, as the Constitution does not specifically ban women from high public office. According to the data, states that have recently revised their constitutions (ex. Arizona: 1992) have consistently (100% since 1963) chosen to remove

Gender Identification from their constitutions.

Also, some job titles, such as Policeman, have been modernized without gender identification. The

people we used to call "Policemen" are now

referred to as "police officers". In

conclusion, I believe that gender identification

should be edited out of the constitution

because of its inequality to women, its

safety to the integrity of the constitution, and

that the fact that it is now widely accepted.

Sincerely,

Anchor Paper 2

Score Point 4

Position-*Stated: Congress should propose an amendment allowing the US Constitution to be rewritten without gender identifications. Supported below.*

Core Democratic Value-...*Equality...because the way the constitution is currently written...only men can hold the office of US President, and that therefore women are inferior.*

Prior Knowledge-...*women are able to run for President...Governor and Senator.... Constitution does not specifically ban women from high public office.*

Data-*states that have recently revised their constitutions (ex. Arizona:1992)... (100% since 1963) chosen to remove Gender Identification from their constitutions.... some job titles, such as Policeman,...are now referred to as "police officers".*

Anchor Paper 3 – Score Point 4

Dear United States Representative:

Yes, I believe the United States congress should propose an amendment allowing the United States Constitution to be written without gender identifications. If these gender identifications are not changed then they would be violating the core democratic value equality which states all United States Citizens are treated the same. This is regardless of race, gender, religion, or customs. This inequality is the same as black people everywhere being treated

unequal because of their skin color in years before. Soon enough the Supreme Court ruled this unconstitutional. As you can see three states have already changed their own constitutions to rule out gender identifications. The United States Constitution should do the same.

Sincerely

Anchor Paper 3 Score Point 4

Position- Stated: Yes...Supported below.

Core Democratic Value- If these gender identifications are not changed then they would be violating the core democratic value equality...all...Citizens are treated the same.

Prior Knowledge- This inequality is the same as black people everywhere being treated unequal because of their skin color.... Supreme Court ruled this unconstitutional.

Data-... three states have already changed their own constitutions to rule out gender identifications.

Anchor Paper 4 – Score Point 3

Dear United States Representative:

I believe that the U.S. Congress should propose an amendment allowing the United States Constitution to be rewritten without gender identification.

I present to you the core democratic value equality because it means that everyone should be treated equally and I think that gender

identification isn't equal. To me equality means everyone gets treated equally. If you go around leaving the women that's not very equal.

Three states have already rewritten their State Constitution so it has no gender identification. These states are Arizona in 1992, Georgia in 1982, and Florida in 1998.

So again I say that I think that the United States Congress should propose an amendment allowing the United States Constitution to be rewritten without gender identification.

Sincerely,

Anchor Paper 4
Score Point 3

Position-*Stated: ...Congress should purpose an amendment...Constitution to be rewritten without gender identification. Supported below.*

Core Democratic Value-*Provided and explained ...equality ...means that everyone should be treated equally...*

Prior Knowledge-not provided.

Data-provides one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section:
Three states have already rewritten their State Constitution so it has no gender idenification...Arizona in 1992, Georgia in 1982, and Flordia in 1998.

Anchor Paper 5 – Score Point 3

Dear United States Representative:

I think the united states should reight the consitution.

I say this because Equality and Justice of the core democratic values say that every one should be treated fairly. The following are reason why.

Equality says that all U.S. citizens should be treated the same no matter the persons sex and the consitution goes against this by saying sentences like All men are equal and men can own property. But equality isn't alone, no sir, it has justice by its side.

Justice states that ALL people be treated fairly, and women are people to. Also this goes against common good or the good for the people, and changing it would be for the good of the people.

three of the states have all ready change to without gender idenfication. Now its time for the uses consitution to change over to nongender identification

Anchor Paper 5 Score Point 3

Position- Stated: ...united states should reight the consitution.

Core Democratic Value-Equality and Justice....all U.S. citizens should be treated the same.... Justice states that ALL people be treated fairly...

Prior Knowledge-not provided.

Data-three of the states have all ready change to without gender idenfication.

Anchor Paper 6 – Score Point 3

Dear United States Representative:

I think there should be a change in the constitution. It's not fair to women if they only include the male genders. Who knows? Someday there might be a woman president. The core democratic value that should be brought up in this situation is Equality. Women and men should be treated equally. Things have changed since the constitution was written in the 1800's. It should

either be changed to "he/she" so it's equal. Or it should be changed to the name that person is talking about. For example the "President", not just "he", and Fire man to Fire Fighter.

Sincerely,

Anchor Paper 6 Score Point 3

Position-I think there should be a change in the constitution.

Core Democratic Value-weak, but point was awarded ...Equality. Women and men should be treated equally.

Prior Knowledge-not provided.

Data-For example the "President", not just "he", and Fireman to Fire Fighter.

Anchor Paper 7 – Score Point 2

Dear United States Representative:

I think congress should propose an amendment allowing the U.S. constitution to be rewritten without gender identifications. IF they want to do this then they can support the pursuit of happiness and do it to make themselves happy. I also dont think males or females have power over one another and gender doesnt matter, so take it out of the constitution.

Some states are already taking out the gender identification, so I think its time for the rest of them to do the same.

Anchor Paper 7 Score Point 2

Position-...Congress should propose an amendment allowing the U.S. Constitution to be rewritten without gender identifications.

Core Democratic Value- Stated ...pursuit of happiness... but not explained.

Prior Knowledge-not provided.

Data- Some states are already taking out the gender identification,...

Anchor Paper 9 – Score Point 2

Dear United States Representative:

I think that you should propose an amendment. Fisherman got changed to Fisher, Mailman got changed to Mail Carrier, and Fireman and Policeman both got changed to Fire Fighter and Police Officer. The President does get respect, but honestly it's just another job like the ones I have listed above. There is one difference though, they all got changed so that women don't feel

like they have been bypassed for the position, but the President's position, well it hasn't yet. Just because there hasn't been a female President yet that doesn't mean that there won't be in the future. In the past women were beaten and were taught that if they told anyone that they would be beaten even more. So, maybe we females haven't yet had the courage to try to be president.

Anchor Paper 9

Score Point 2

P-...should propose an amendment.

CDV-not provided.

PK-common knowledge.

D-Fisherman ...Fisher, Mailman...Mail Carrier, and Fireman and Policeman... Fire Fighter and Police Officer.

Anchor Paper 10 – Score Point 1

Dear United States Representative:

I disagree the constitution Shouldnt be rewritten.

The constitution should be left the way it is it the original copy if we rewrite it then it would be like rewriting history.

It's common good it's better not to rewrite the constitution. if we do then what would all the people who wrote it think

they would think that we did it because we didnt like how they wrote things.

We cant rewrite the constitution or it'll be years before we finish it again we have to leave it alone. it's better off the way it is.

I disagree we shouldnt rewrite the constitution it would be like rewriting history.

Anchor Paper 10

Score Point 1

P-I disagree the constitution Shouldnt be rewritten.

CDV-stated, not explained.

PK-not provided.

D-not provided.

Anchor Paper 11 – Score Point 1

Dear United States Representative:

I think that the United States Congress should change the constitution for equality. It's not right just for all men to be treated equal and also all people that means all genders should be treated equal. People have justice it should not matter what gender you are to be treated with the pursuit of Happiness.

Anchor Paper 11

Score Point 1

P-...should change the constitution for equality.

CDV-words given are used up to support the Position. No double dip.

Anchor Paper 12 – Score Point 1

Dear United States Representative:

I believe the United States Congress should ~~not propose~~ an amendment allowing the United States Constitution to be rewritten with updated language because I think everything should stay the same. I use the CDV of Diversity because I believe everything should stay the same.

Anchor Paper 12
Score Point 1

P-...should not propose an amendment allowing the...Constitution to be rewritten with updated language...

CDV-stated Diversity, connection not explained.

Anchor Paper 13 – Score Point 0

Dear United States Representative:

I think we should revise/rewrite our Constitution to keep up with the changing language. I think that because when kids in school are learning about the Constitution they will not have to keep asking the teacher what some of the words and phrases mean.

IF we changed the Constitution, it would be for the common Good. We would be giving up our old constitution, but now we would all be able to know and understand it.

More people have been changing constitutions without a gender change, but you do not know how accurate that is you would have to look at all 50 states. But revising the Constitution is what we should do.

A concerned citizen,

Anchor Paper 13 Score Point 0

P-No—not supported:...we should revise/rewrite our Constitution to keep up with the changing language.

CDV-stated *common Good*, but connection not explained.

D-doesn't support position.

Anchor Paper 14 – Score Point 0

Dear United States Representative:

I believe that not only men should be treated equaly. All human races should be treated the same.

Equality supports my decision. You should be treated fairly. How come every one fights? I know, it's because not all people are being treated fairly because of their gender.

Wemon are being abused by the male, physically and mentally. Wemon should be just as treated fairly as the male.

Women were never use to ~~know~~ be able to vote, sometimes we were not even allowed to go get a job. We just had to sit inside cleaning house. Us women are just the same as men. We can do the same things as men can.

That's my decision.

Anchor Paper 14
Score Point 0

Response does not take position on rewriting the Constitution.

Anchor Paper 15 – Score Point 0

Dear United States Representative:

I think that you should have gender
Identifications.

Anchor Paper 15
Score Point 0

Response states *I think that you should have gender Identifications.* without giving a 'because'—no support.