

MEETUP MATERIAL

- “How to Read the Constitution & The Declaration of Independence” by Paul B Skousen

Each participant will need a copy of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence but only the Facilitator needs to have a copy of Skousen’s book. For group members who find they want a copy it can be purchased on Amazon.

If needed, additional pocket Constitutions can be purchased for about \$1-2 on Amazon.

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

As a Facilitator you are welcome to use additional materials from Skousen’s book which we do not incorporate into outlines.

Instead of seeing the founding documents as simply words from the past, it is good to discuss how their principles are reflected in our current society. Beyond the questions provided by Skousen, feel free to ask your group time and again how they see these things applying in our current day.

Each Meetup outline will point you to the relevant section of Skousen’s book for discussion questions. We encourage individual adaptation and supplementation in your group.



SCHEDULE

Your group can meet as often as you would like. Consider suggesting an every other week or once a month schedule to your group then find what works best for everyone.

Meetups can take place at any time of day so work with your group’s availability.

Some groups choose to add in snacks, desserts or even meals to their Meetups.



OUTLINES

Each of these sections can be it’s own discussion and, depending on group participation, may take more than one Meetup to cover. Take your time with the material, there is no need to rush.

Generally, each section includes a portion to read aloud and discussion questions. You can have a single designated reader or participants can take turns reading. If questions come up while reading, take time to discuss them. Reference the Glossary on page 179 of Skousen’s book for definitions of lesser known words.

1

INTRODUCTION

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Read aloud pages 41-43 of “How to Read the Constitution”.

2

THE PREAMBLE

This is the Framers’ statement of purpose. Read aloud the first paragraph of the Constitution on page 145 of “How to Read the Constitution” and review the questions on pages 101-103.

3

THE BILL OF RIGHTS

Using pages 66-78 of “How to Read the Constitution”, read through each of the 10 amendments in the Bill of Rights.

Review the questions on pages 87-88 of “How to Read the Constitution”.
[Skousen page 23]

4

THE ARTICLES

INTRODUCTION

Read aloud pages 44-50 of “How to Read the Constitution” for an overview of how the Constitution is structured and organized.

THE ARTICLES CONTINUED...

Each study below contains the page numbers within “How to Read the Constitution” for the text of the document and the discussion questions. Discussion questions should be answered after each section within an Article.

ARTICLE 1

The Legislative Branch
Text: pages 145-154
Questions: 107-112

ARTICLE 2

The Executive Branch
Text: pages 154-157
Questions: 113-115

ARTICLE 3

The Judicial Branch
Text: pages 158-159
Questions: 116-118

ARTICLE 4

The States
Text: pages 159-160
Questions: 119-121

ARTICLE 5

Amending the Constitution
Text: pages 160-161
Questions: 122-123

ARTICLE 6

Supremacy
Text: 161
Questions: 124-125

ARTICLE 7

Ratification
Text: 162
Questions: 126-127

MEMORY TOOLS**GRASP**

An easy acronym to help remember 1st amendment rights:

- G- Grievances (petition for redress)**
- R- Religion**
- A- Assembly**
- S- Speech**
- P- Press**

LEJ SAS R (read it like: Leg Sasser)

An acronym for the Articles is a little trickier. If you remember to pronounce it right it’s easier to remember.

- L- Legislative Branch (Art. 1)**
- E- Executive Branch (Art. 2)**
- J- Judicial Branch (Art. 3)**
- S- States (Art. 4)**
- A- Amendments (Art. 5)**
- S- Supremacy (Art. 6)**
- R- Ratification (Art. 7)**

**CONGRATS**

You’ve finished the Constitution! Not only that, but you helped a group of your fellow Americans become stronger citizens. With an understanding of this founding document you are more empowered to defend the principles upon which our country was founded and stand for liberty!

Want to keep learning? Visit our website for additional study material.

MomsforLiberty.org

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THE CONSTITUTION

MADISON
MEETUP

For our Republic to survive we must understand the documents on which it was founded.