

Grace Cooksey

11 years old

6th grade

The Seven Articles

And How They Defend My Rights

I am eleven years old and I care about my rights, my freedoms and my Constitution. I hope this helps others to realize how great our nation is. America is truly unique! I am proud of it. You should be too.

Article 1: This tells the Congress what they can and cannot do and how often they can be elected. It tells us how the House of Representatives and Senate make up the Congress and always should be checking up on each other, making sure that no one gets too much power. It tells us that each state, no matter their size, gets two people in the Senate, but representatives are proportional. Big states get a lot and little states a few. Congress overstepped what they are allowed to do by making the Affordable Care Act because the Constitution does not say you can force citizens to buy products. Congress said they were just making laws on trade (commerce), but they were forcing us to buy a government product, and if we don't we must pay a fine! That is not constitutional.

Article 2: This is about the Executive Branch, which has the President, Vice President and the executive officers. It also says that you must be 35 to become President. Term length is 4 years unless re-elected. You can only be re-elected once. It also says that Presidents must swear to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution" when he or she is sworn into office. Congress sets the salary to make sure that Congress would not punish or reward someone while they are in the Presidency. Once it is set it is set. It tells us how to elect a President using the Electoral College. This protects my rights because I live in a small state. For instance, in the 2000 election little states proved to be important, too.

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Article 3: Article 3 tells us about the Supreme Court. It tells us that their job is to make sure laws are constitutional and that they are the final judges on big court cases. It also says which court cases should go to the Supreme Court. Ambassadors' cases go straight to the Supreme Court. If you commit a crime you get to go to a trial by jury. This makes trials a lot more fair. What if there was an evil judge who decided you were guilty? It also talks about traitors and the punishment for them. The Judicial Branch cannot make laws, but in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 they did and no one stopped them.

Article 4: This is for keeping America united. It says that we should communicate and not discriminate against someone from another state. Also if you capture someone from another state you must send them back for a fair trial. The founders wrote this so people wouldn't be scared to travel or so that criminals wouldn't be running to another state to escape punishment. There are 87,000 flights per day. That shows that Americans are not scared to travel! It also talks about how new states can join into the union. This is important because otherwise America would be really small and your state might not be in the union so where you are might have been New Spain or Canada! It also says that it is the federal government's job to protect us from invasions and insurrections.

Article 5: If we need to amend the Constitution then we can! We can do so in two ways:
1. If three-fourths of Congress votes yes then we can. The 13th Amendment that abolished slavery in 1865 is a good example of this. If we didn't have Article 5 then we would still have slavery.
2. If three-fourths of the states agree that we can change something then we can. This has never been done before. For example, states could propose a limit on the national debt. Since Congress has no say in the matter, our state legislatures decide, which is a lot closer to "we the people". This part is not working to protect our freedoms because Americans do not even know they could ever do this because most Americans do not know their Constitution.

Article 6: This establishes four things: 1. They would, under the Constitution, honor old obligations, 2. Federal laws ruled over state laws, 3. When elected as an official you must swear to uphold the Constitution, 4. It does not matter what religion you are; you can still become an

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official. Presidents, local judges, Congressmen, swear to uphold the Constitution, but many do not uphold the Constitution.

Article 7: This says that the Constitution must be approved by the states. This is another example of “we the people” because the founding fathers wanted all the states to approve it, not just the big important ones. Our Constitution is one of the best, but people are forgetting what our nation was founded on. Are our rights and freedoms being taken away from us? Read the Constitution; your freedom may depend on it.

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