

## *Cubing*

### **Topic: The United States Constitution**

**Describe:** Our constitution is a document. It's old. It contains information about our rights and freedoms as citizens.

**Analyze:** The constitution contains articles and amendments. They contain words and sentences, obviously! There is information in it about who is in Congress and how they get elected and meet. Some of the language is hard to understand. It has the signatures of the people who agreed to it.

**Compare:** The constitution is like an owner's manual for citizens. It lays out what is done by the government and what the individual is supposed to do and what rights the individual has, like the right to free speech.

**Apply:** This historical document applies to my life in many ways. I enjoy free speech that people in many countries do not, like Iran and Iraq. I'm female, so if it weren't for the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, I would not be able to vote when I'm 18. My parents have to pay taxes, and one day I will too, and the information about paying taxes is in the constitution.

**Argue for/against:** I think all countries should have a constitution. I'm in clubs here at school that have bylaws and it's kinda the same thing. Any organization needs rules that they go by. So a constitution is like that.

**Associate:** When I think of the Constitution, I think of parchment paper and ink—the kind that comes in the little jars and you have to write with a quill. That's what I think they had to do. But I also associate the constitution with jail. I mean, if you break a law, then you're arrested. And all that started with the rules laid out in the constitution.

### **Topic: The writing process**

**Describe:** Each person has his own process for writing. First you're supposed to do prewriting which can be brainstorming or jotting or other things you want to do. Then you have to get all that organized and then do a draft. Then you have to revise and edit.

**Analyze:** The writing process has steps--prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, publishing. Each of these steps has all sorts of actions that can be part of it. Like for revising, you can read your draft out loud to someone or even out loud to yourself and listen for parts you might want to change.

**Compare:** The writing process is not like solving a math problem. When you do a math problem, it's really more straightforward. You just do steps and in a certain order. The writing process can be a lot more circular than like a straight line. A math problem is more like a straight line.

**Apply:** I have to use the writing process a lot in school but mostly in English. I was working on an application for a summer job and also had to use a short writing process for the part on why I wanted the job.

**Argue for/against:** All teachers should make us do the various steps. Not all teachers give us time for that. You can't make a perfect paper from just one draft! You have to think for a while and then revise. And then it helps if the teacher can help you edit. The teacher can always find more stuff to fix than you could've found on your own.

**Associate:** The writing process is like riding a bike. You get smoother each time you do it. It has different actions that all have to come together for a good ride, but you just have to practice.