

CITIZENSHIP

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JANUARY
2024

SPOTLIGHT... Voting Rights

Question # 48 - There are four (4) amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

1. Citizens eighteen (18) and older [can vote].
2. You don't have to pay [a poll tax] to vote.
3. Any citizen can vote. [Women and men can vote]
4. A male citizen of any race [can vote].

Looking for a creative way to teach the answer to this question?

1 Click on this [video](#) created by Rock the Vote. It is an animated four-minute video narrated by young celebrities explaining the history of voting rights.

2 The New England Voter Education Registration and Action (VERA) created a nine-page [packet](#) that includes a detailed lesson plan about voting rights. This lesson plan is active (gets students out of their chairs), gives students an immediate feeling of inclusion and exclusion, and reflects the fluid nature of institutions that control who can vote. Hang a "Can Vote" sign on one side of the room and a "Can't Vote" sign on the other side of the room. Assign roles (wealthy white male, African American female, immigrant, etc.) to the students. The provided script recounts the history of voting rights in the U.S. Students will move to the appropriate sign as new developments are described. This script captures the nuances as voting rights are won and lost. The packet also contains an article by Andy Nash, stories about people who lost the right to vote, and a worksheet.

3 The following [article](#) from National Geographic details the history of voting rights beginning with the American Revolution up to the 2023 Shelby County v. Holder Supreme Court case.

Have questions, need assistance, or for more information contact
Nancy Hill, Citizenship Consultant, at hill@edadvance.org.