

Student Handout 4: Quotes from Founding Documents

This lesson focuses on using primary sources as evidence in constructing an argument about the public issue of gerrymandering. Use the excerpts from foundational documents below as evidence in constructing your argument.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...”

-The Declaration of Independence

“We the People of the United States... do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

-The Constitution of the United States of America
(from the Preamble)

“The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.”

- U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 4, Paragraph 1

“Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers...The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.”

- U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 2, Paragraph 3