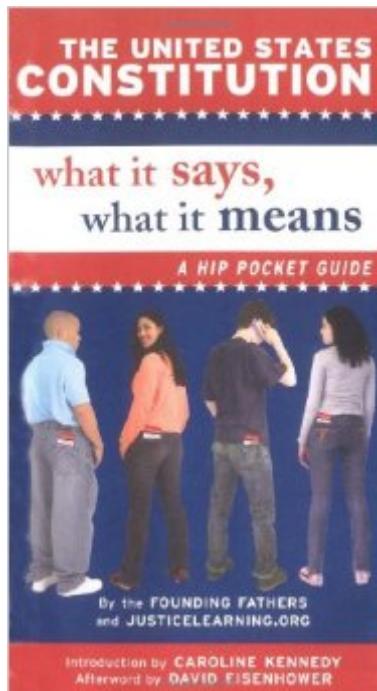


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# The United States Constitution: What It Says, What It Means: A Hip Pocket Guide



## **Synopsis**

Affordable, readable, and indispensable, *The United States Constitution: What it Says, What it Means* allows you to put the most important document in American history in your back pocket. In conjunction with Justice Learning and The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands and with an introduction written by Caroline Kennedy and an afterword written by David Eisenhower, this pocket guide appeals to the broadest possible audience. Each Article and each Amendment is followed by a clear and concise explanation, in plain English, that is suitable for both middle and high school students. On December 8, 2004 President Bush officially signed Constitution Day into law. The law mandates that each year, on September 17th, schools and colleges that receive federal money are required to teach the Constitution. The new law was championed in Congress by Sen. Robert Byrd who famously carries around a copy of the document in his pocket. Sen. Byrd became increasingly alarmed at the lack of civics education-specifically relating to the Constitution-in our public schools and he wanted to take action. Lightweight, easy to use and easy for everyone to understand *The United States Constitution: What it Says, What it Means* is an excellent way for students and citizens of all ages to read and completely comprehend the building block of American democracy. Justice Learning ([www.justicelearning.org](http://www.justicelearning.org)), is a comprehensive on-line resource that offers wide-ranging non-partisan materials relating to civics education.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

There has been much talk of restoring the republic, and following the Constitution. Reading this

book is the blue print of our working government. The explanations of what each section means is well written and easy to understand. The reader will be more informed of what it means to be American. S/he will also understand how far we have gone away from the Constitution in today's modern government. Decide for yourself. Read this book.

Makes the Constitution easy to understand. Wish I would have had it in high school. The framers would be impressed.

Too few Americans understand what their constitutional rights are and have no fear of these precious liberties being eroded. This little book goes a long way in teaching the basics of this founding document. It should be given to every student in the USA.

I found this pocket guide very useful and handy when trying to recall the segments of the US Constitution. It is handy to have during discussions when you need the correct wording of the articles.

This book is more than just the text of the constitution. It provides a good explanation of what the various sections and amendments really mean. You can get the text of the constitution in many places but a side by side explanation on how it has been interpreted and amended is where this book separates itself from others at this price.

Anyone who's fed up with our loss of Constitutional rights needs to keep this with them in case a police officer gets confrontational and argumentative. It's wise to film any and all interactions with a videocamera/smartphone. And remember, the less you say, the better. But feel free to quote your Constitutional rights - they can't use those against you in a court of law! The only two things you need to say are:"Am I being detained?""Am I free to go?"

I have bought several copies of this book. I have given most of them away to friends. I have been seen reading it by college kids and it has sparked conversations with them, most recently about immigration. They're surprised that a supposedly uneducated city bus driver can engage them in earnest conversation about the importance of the Constitution and its author's motives on why it says what it says. This small book devotes more words to the meaning of each Article and Amendment than it does in just reprinting the the text of the Constitution.

This is a terrific summary of what the constitution says. Every American should have a copy of this. It used to be that Civics was taught in the 8th grade. This should be the textbook of such a course. The examples are clear. The breakup of what the clauses in the constitution mean. The cases are very interesting. The constitution is a living breathing document and this book makes it very straight forward. Americans should not only be proud of the constitution: they should know it. And now is the time in needs defense. The only criticism I have is that although the Declaration is mentioned, it is not included. It should be. We need to know why the revolutionary war was fought in the first place and Jefferson's prose is almost poetry.

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