

Grade: 9 - 12

Subject: Civil Literacy

Date:

Topic: The 5th Amendment to the United States Constitution

Lesson Focus: This lesson plan explores the 5th Amendment to the United States Constitution by focusing on the Supreme Court Case, Kelo v. New London.

Materials Needed:

Access to the Website: "Kelo v. New London." Oyez, www.oyez.org/cases/2004/04-108. Accessed 3 Oct. 2025. which provides a case summary, primary source documents, and audio recordings.

Learning Standards: Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy Standards

CL.C&G.1.2 Critique the consistency with which federal policies, state policies, and Supreme Court decisions have upheld the founding principles.

CL.E.1.1 Explain how the role federal and state governments play in economic decision-making impacts the economic mobility, status, and quality of life of individuals living in America.

CL.H.1.6 Exemplify ways individuals have demonstrated resistance and resilience to inequities, injustice, and discrimination within the American system of government over time.

Activity:

Prompt students to brainstorm rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Ask: What are some of your rights?

Ask: Why is it important to know your rights?

Ask: Is it ever OK for the government to take your private property, without your consent?

Have students examine materials at the website www.oyez.org/cases/2004/04-108.

Students can then discuss the case in small groups or with a partner.

Ask: What did the Supreme Court say about rights in this case?

Ask: Do you agree or disagree with the court's decision?

Ask: What is one good question you'd like to ask an expert about this case?

Assessment: Students will divide into two groups for a class debate.

Group one will agree with the court's decision.

Group two will disagree with the court's decision.

Each group will take turns making points in support of their position until every student has been allowed an opportunity to speak.

The entire class will then take a vote to determine if the class agrees or disagrees with the court's decision.

Students will be evaluated based on effective and thoughtful participation in the activity.