

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



the CONSTITUTION in the NEWS



A Hollister Kids Newspaper Supplement from:



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We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide

the CONSTITUTION and YOU

The U.S. Constitution was written more than 200 years ago, but it remains one of the world's great documents.

The way it divided power between different branches of government has become a model for other countries.

At the same time, the freedoms established in the Bill of Rights in the first 10 Amendments are some of the nation's most important.

The Constitution has met every major challenge the nation has faced, from the impeachment of presidents to the conduct of wars. Its rules have provided a roadmap on issues such as the rights of states, the protection of music copyrights and the appointment of justices to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Through its amendments, it has corrected old wrongs and established new freedoms.

The 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments abolished slavery, ensured citizenship for African Americans and gave them the right to vote, the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote, and the 26th Amendment extended voting rights to people as young as 18.

Today, the influence of the Constitution can be felt in all aspects of life.

It informs debate on the war in Iraq and the fight against terrorism. It is at the center of legal challenges to music downloading and Web sites like YouTube. It is at the heart of questions about gun control, political boundaries and the death penalty.

For students and families, the Constitution affects free speech in schools, student privacy



on grades and affirmative action programs for selection to college.

It addresses whether kids can be tested for drugs to be part of school activities and how they can treat each other on school grounds.

This special education supplement "The Constitution in the News" was created to show the many ways the Constitution affects the lives of students, families, schools and the community.

It takes a close look at issues and court cases that have made news in the last few years, and it explains how such issues and decisions will affect you and your family in the future.

In every case, it shows how powerful a

presence the Constitution is in every person's life, every day.

Constitution Day

The U.S. Constitution was adopted by a convention of the nation's founders on September 17, 1787. That day is now observed as Constitution Day, and since 2004, a national law has required that schools teach about the Constitution as part of their classes that day.

This Newspaper in Education supplement has been created to give students a fresh way to learn about the Constitution as part of Constitution Day activities.

Credits

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Thanks to Supreme Court, students face wider drug testing

Every year when schools reopen, students wonder what changes they'll face.

Since the fall of 2002, one of the biggest changes has been a loss of privacy for those involved in school activities.

If you want to play sports, or join any non-sports team that competes, you may have to take a drug test to be eligible.

The U.S. Supreme Court gave its blessing to expanded drug testing in a landmark ruling handed down that summer.

The nation's highest court ruled 5-4 that the interest of school districts in fighting drugs was more important than students' rights to privacy.

The decision gives school leaders freedom to test students who compete with other schools in any activities or sports programs, even if there has been no reason to suspect drug use.

The decision, which expanded an earlier Supreme Court ruling that okayed tests for athletes, affects everything from chess teams to cheerleading squads to Science Olympiads.

The case on which the Supreme Court ruled started when an Oklahoma honor student who competed on the academic quiz team was required to take a drug test.

Lindsay Earls, who says she had always been a "goody two-shoes," called the drug test humiliating.

In its ruling, the High Court said that drug testing was not humiliation, but a positive thing, a "non-threatening reason [for students] to decline" invitations to do drugs.

The justices stopped short of allowing random tests for any student. Several justices said, however, that they would be willing to look at that later.

Trends in drug use

The Supreme Court ruling came at a time when there had been good news on reduced drug use among middle and high school students in the U.S.

Marijuana, alcohol, crack cocaine and heroin use have all declined since they peaked in the nation around 1996, according to the Monitoring the Future Survey, a nationwide poll backed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The percentage of teens who report they have used illegal drugs in the previous 12 months is down from peak levels in the mid-1990s by about

one-third in eighth grade, one-quarter in 10th grade and one-eighth in 12th grade.

Activities an 'anti-drug'

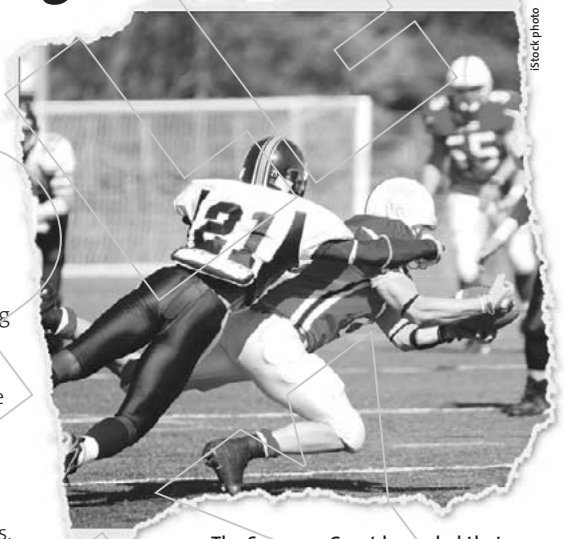
The effort to reduce teen drug use has taken many forms.

Drug testing is one approach.

Aggressive anti-drug advertising on television is another. Examples have included a campaign linking drug trafficking to terrorism by the government's Office of National Drug Control Policy and "My Anti-Drug" ads showing the activities students do to experience "highs" from achievement instead of drugs.

Noting the success of those ads, some civil liberties experts said the High Court ruling could discourage students from participating in activities.

"The best way to prevent drug use," said Graham Boyd of the American Civil Liberties Union, "is to involve them in extra-curricular activities."



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The Supreme Court has ruled that schools may require students to take drug tests to participate in sports and other activities.

Use the NEWS

1. Drugs are often in the news—drug testing, drug abuse, drug fighting efforts and more. Search your e-Edition today or for several days for stories that involve drugs. Separatethe stories you find into categories under the headings "Local" "National" or "International." Which type of story is most common in your paper? Write a sentence stating why you think that is the case.

2. The use of illegal drugs can have far-reaching effects on kids and their families. Find a photo of an activity you enjoy in today's e-Edition. Study the photo and imagine that one of the people in it developed a drug problem. Write out all the effects on the individual, family and friends.
3. TV and newspaper ads are effective ways to get a message to people. Find a news item in the e-Edition that involves drugs. Use this information to create an ad on the effect of drugs on people. If you like, pick an entertainer or sports star from the paper to appear as a spokesperson.



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