



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

MNEMONIC DEVICE

By Mark Semioli

Activity Description

Creating a memorable phrase can aid in memorization. Students may already be familiar with ROY G. BIV's (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet) help in knowing the colors of the spectrum, or that SCUBA is a word comprising the first letters in Self-Contained, Underwater Breathing Apparatus. Invite students to create such a device so others can learn the Bill of Rights. Samples follow.

Suggested Grade Level

Fourth and above

Estimated Time to Complete

30 minutes or more depending on students' knowledge of or ability to extrapolate information on the Bill of Rights

Objectives

Students will

- identify key words and ideas within the first ten amendments to the constitution;
- create a mnemonic device to teach the amendments to others.

Materials Needed

- Chart paper
- Markers
- Copies of the Bill of Rights and supplementing resources
- Student notebooks
- Graphic organizer (follows)

Activity Procedures

1. Invite students to create a mnemonic device so others can learn the Bill of Rights. Samples follow. First, ask them to think of a way to remember which teams are in Major League Baseball's National League East Division: New York Mets, Philadelphia Phillies, Washington Nationals, Atlanta Braves, Florida Marlins. Listing the first letters on chart paper can help them get started:

N
P
W
A
F

Or, list the first letters of the mascots:

M
P
N
B
M

2. Chart students' creations as well as your own. They might include, “**N**ever **P**aint **W**ith **A** **F**lashdrive.” Or, “**M**ost **P**eople **N**eeds **B**asic **M**anners.” In some cases, students may benefit from arranging letters. The word *fawn* appears in the first list. This example does not need to be in order and scaffolds the task of creating a device for The Bill of Rights.
3. Use the graphic organizer that follows to record students' thinking.
4. Upon identifying key words within each amendment or one or two words that summarize the content of each amendment, direct students to list letters and begin. For example:

First Amendment—speech, **S**
Second Amendment—bear arms, own a gun, **O**
Third Amendment—quartering of soldiers not allowed, **N**
and so on

MNEMONIC DEVICE ORGANIZER

Name _____

Amendment	Key idea	Letter to use
I		
II		
III		
IV		
V		

Amendment	Key Idea	Letter to use
VI		
VII		
VIII		
IX		
X		

MNEMONIC EXAMPLES
FOR THE BILL OF RIGHTS (FIRST TEN AMENDMENTS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION)

- **Fifth Graders Quietly Step Across Some Juicy Strawberries**

Fifth—F from freedom of speech, First Amendment

Graders—G from guns (right to bear arms), Second Amendment

Quietly—Q from quartering of soldier (No soldier...), Third Amendment

Step—S from searches and seizures must be reasonable, Fourth Amendment

Across—A from a crime; you cannot testify against yourself, Fifth Amendment

Some—S from speedy trial, Sixth Amendment

Juicy—J from juries (the right of trial by jury), Seventh Amendment

Expensive—E from excessive, cruel or unusual punishment, Eighth Amendment

California—C from Constitution, Ninth Amendment

Strawberries—S from States' rights, Tenth Amendment

- **Subways Over Queens Run Infrequently From Jamaica Center, Especially Sundays**

Subways—S from speech, First Amendment

Over—O from ownership of guns, Second Amendment

Queens—Q from quartering, Third Amendment

Run—R from reasonable searches and seizures, Fourth Amendment

Infrequently—I from “I take [or plead] the Fifth,” Fifth Amendment

From—F from fair and speedy trial, Sixth Amendment

Jamaica—J from juries (the right of trial by jury), Seventh Amendment

Center—C from cruel and unusual punishment, Eighth Amendment

Especially—E from enumerated, Ninth Amendment

Sundays—S from States' rights, Tenth Amendment

**MNEMONIC EXAMPLES
FOR THE BILL OF RIGHTS (FIRST TEN AMENDMENTS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION)**

- **Every Good Soldier Protects and Defends The Country's People Respecting Freedom**
Every—E from expression, freedom of (First Amendment)
Good—G from guns, right to bear arms (Second Amendment)
Soldier—S from no quartering of soldiers (Third Amendment)
Protects—P from privacy, right to (Fourth Amendment)
Defends—D from due process and double jeopardy (Fifth Amendment)
The—T from trial, speedy (Sixth Amendment)
Country's—C from civil trial, right of by jury (Seventh Amendment)
People—P from punishment, no cruel or unusual (Eighth Amendment)
Respecting—R from rights that have not been listed (Ninth Amendment)
Freedom—F from federalism, States' rights (Tenth Amendment)

- **SomeBody Question Us If Silly Tommy Can Play Sports**
Some—S from speech, freedom of (First Amendment)
Body—B from bear arms, right to (Second Amendment)
Question—Q from quartering of soldiers, no (Third Amendment)
Us—U from unreasonable searches and seizures (Fourth Amendment)
If—I from "I take/plead the Fifth" (Fifth Amendment)
Silly—S from speedy trial, the right to (Sixth Amendment)
Tommy—T from trial by jury, the right of (Seventh Amendment)
Can—C from cruel or unusual punishment (Eighth Amendment)
Play—P from peoples' rights (Ninth Amendment)
Sports—S from States' rights (Tenth Amendment)