

What if YOU were in the room?

Exploring the US Constitution through the humanities

In 2022, PA Humanities asked young adults across the state to reimagine our founding document and its creation. Passionate submissions poured in from across the state raising thoughtful concerns about women's rights, the 2nd Amendment, LGBTQIA+ representation, slavery, quartering soldiers, and more.

Now it's your turn to get in on the fun! This activity sheet provides an educational opportunity for critical inquiry, reflection, imagination, and generative dialogue. It can be used before or after field trips or during classroom study of the US Constitution. You can check out the youth responses at PAHumanities.org/InTheRoom for inspiration. Educators could also consider holding a class or school-wide contest to select top submissions.

Through writing, poetry, or visual art:

Imagine....

If you were in the room, what would you add or change about the US Constitution?

If you could rewrite the US Constitution, who from the past or present would you want to be in the room to help write it? Where would you want it to happen? What would the room look like, feel like, sound like?

Reflect....

Which amendment has had the greatest impact on your life? How so?

What does "perfect union" mean to you? What other words could describe a strong union?

Discuss...

How have the humanities and arts shaped the way you understand history?

How is history shaped by who is and isn't in the room?

If You Were In The Room was created by PA Humanities and made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the A More Perfect Union initiative. Learn more at pahumanities.org/intheroom.