

# Selecting a Topic for a Proposed Amendment

The following guidelines will help you select a topic for your proposed amendment.

1. Select and register your amendment topic **as soon as possible**. To avoid duplication similar topics will not be accepted. In two proposed topics are deemed too similar, only the first we receive will be accepted.
2. Amendments have been proposed and debated for almost any topic you can come up with. Your topic does not need to be original. Since 1789 almost 12,000 proposed amendments have been introduced in Congress! Very few received serious consideration. See the list below or search for proposed amendments on the internet.
  - A Balanced Budget
  - School Choice
  - Congressional Term Limits
  - Judicial Reform – possibilities include
    - Judicial Term Limits for all Federal Judges
    - Supreme Court Reform - might include setting the number of justices, term limits, qualifications, mandatory retirement age, etc.
  - Change the Amendment Process
  - The Electoral College
    - Allocation of Electoral Votes by Congressional District
    - Abolish the Electoral College and elect the president by popular vote
  - Voting Rights and Security
    - Require Voter ID in national elections

- Prohibit Voter ID
- Secure to the States the election process
- Ranked Choice Voting
- Franchise for non-citizens

3. Get ideas from your teachers, parents and others whom you respect.
4. Your topic should be specific and narrow enough that your proposed amendment can meet the limitations of this competition. It should address a single issue.
5. The topic should be something that demonstrably requires an amendment, rather than something that could more reasonably be resolved by legislation.
6. The topic you choose should be one which you believe would be in the best interest of the nation. And you should be prepared to explain why.
7. Once you have selected a topic, decide on a title that is descriptive, brief and captures the imagination.