

Hand Gestures for the Bill of Rights

1st Amendment: guarantees freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition (Use your hand to convey there are five freedoms in the first amendment—five fingers to one)

- Freedom of speech—point to mouth
- Freedom of religion—point to God
- Freedom of press—use one finger to write a script
- Freedom of assembly—use one finger and wave front and back in a “come here” motion
- Freedom of petition—point finger back and forth away from you

2nd Amendment: ensures the right to bear arms

- Two fingers create a “gun”

3rd Amendment: sets conditions for quartering of troops in private homes

- Make an OK sign with 3 fingers sticking up – and the other two fingers make a “quarter”

4th Amendment: regulates search, seizure, and warrants (essentially right to privacy)

- Put four fingers up and then curl them in, unless the police comes knocking with a search warrant

5th Amendment: addresses protections against self-incrimination, guarantees of due process, eminent domain, and grand jury indictment for capital crimes

- Take your five fingers and cover your mouth: “you have the right to remain silent”

6th Amendment: guarantees rights to a speedy, public trial and an impartial jury; to confront witnesses; and to have an attorney

- Take your one finger and tap it on the wrist of your other hand with five fingers out: you have a right to a “speedy trial”

7th Amendment: preserves right to a jury trial in civil cases

- use two fingers to pull bills out of a stack of money held in your palm... so those two fingers plus the five fingers of the other hand equals 7 (most civil trials involve lawsuits in which one person is trying to recover money or damages from another)

8th Amendment: ensures no excess bails or fines, nor cruel and unusual punishment

- either make a double noose with your hand or create a figure eight shape with your arms and legs

9th Amendment: enumerates rights of the people (*citizens do enjoy rights that are not mentioned in the Bill of Rights—but there are too many basic rights to mention.*)

- Put up nine fingers and “raise the roof”—power to the people!

10th Amendment: reserves powers of the states and the people

- Put up ten fingers and push powers off to the states

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYG_f-y8-VY