

## Ideas & Resources from Colleges/Universities in Teaching and Celebrating Constitution Day

### Cornell University

[http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Sept06/Constitution\\_Day.html](http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Sept06/Constitution_Day.html)

Cornell presents a film, “A Conversation on the Constitution, Judicial Independence,” featuring Supreme Court Justices O’Connor, Breyer, and Kennedy, followed by a discussion of judicial independence led by Cornell law professors. Other events include a voter registration drive, a special exhibit at the library, a reading room, and a special video created by Cornell students reflecting their interpretation of the Constitution.

### Penn State University

<http://www.publicscholarship.psu.edu/constitution-day/>

Hosted by the newly created Laboratory for Public Scholarship and Democracy, Penn State’s web site provides resources for across-the-curriculum learning and classroom activities, in addition to links to federal documents and valuable web sites.

### Purdue University

<http://www.purdue.edu/constitution-day/>

Purdue hosts a broad range of activities such as a “banned books” exhibit, a college bowl competition on constitutional knowledge, an interactive timeline of key events in the history of the US Constitution, voter registration, and a game-show competition.

### Seton Hall School of Law

<http://law.shu.edu/constitutionday/>

Seton Hall’s 2007 Constitution Day program considered *Interrogation as a Means of Intelligence Gathering*. It examined two interrogation models: the Criminal Law Model and the National Security Model, which both raise interesting constitutional questions. This case-study approach to learning about the Constitution included a live simulcast, questions for participants, and additional resources.

### Skidmore College

<http://www.skidmore.edu/library/collections/govdocs/constitution.htm>

Organized by the College’s library, Skidmore’s Constitution Day site contains links to historic documents, educational resources (e.g., the NY Times Knowledge Network), and an extensive bibliography. It also contains programming resources.

Southeastern Louisiana University

<http://www.selu.edu/library/news/articles/constitutionday.html>

SELU provides a number of valuable links for individuals seeking US citizenship for its Constitution Day activities.

#### **University of Arizona School of Law**

<http://www.law.arizona.edu/frontpage/events/constitutionday2008.cfm>

UA Law uses Constitution Day to review the most significant US Supreme Court rulings of the prior term.

#### **University of Missouri**

[http://www.umsl.edu/services/ctl/instr\\_support/constitutionday07.html](http://www.umsl.edu/services/ctl/instr_support/constitutionday07.html)

Organized through the University's Center for Teaching and Learning, Constitution Day activities include a dialogue (in 2007, on the environment and "whether the US Constitution is Green enough"), a brunch with area legislators, and a book sale of books on the US Constitution and constitutional issues.

#### **University of Pennsylvania**

<http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v52/n03/const.html><http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v52/n03/const.htm>

Penn works with area schools to provide more than 1000 local students a broad range of activities about the US Constitution, including a "constitutional literacy" program, podcasts through Penn sorority and fraternity houses, a mock Supreme Court, and a presentation by Mary Beth Tinker (the Iowa student who was suspended after wearing a black arm band to school in protest of the Vietnam war).

#### **Widener University School of Law**

<http://www.law.widener.edu/constitution/2007/>

Widener Law School faculty work with area high school teachers to create a collection of essays written by high school students about the US Constitution. The school recruits local judges, politicians, and lawyers to review the essays, work with the authors, and establish an ongoing mentoring relationship.

#### **Yale University**

<http://opa.yale.edu/news/article.aspx?id=2552>

In 2005, Yale University celebrated Constitution Day by commemorating the contributions of Benjamin Franklin. The program featured an actor dressed as Franklin who distributed copies of the Constitution, as well as Franklin's proposed (and not adopted) amendments, as well as readings drawn from Franklin's letters and papers.

**University of California**

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/constitutionday/>

**University of Maryland University College**

<http://www.umuc.edu/constitution/>

**University of Kansas**

<http://www.ku.edu/constitution/index.shtml>

These three universities host web sites that contain links to government web sites, historic documents, descriptions of the founding fathers and signers of the Constitution, as well as the text of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Some provide extensive information on issues ranging from separation of powers to privacy rights. Some contain quizzes. At the University of Maryland, Constitution Day is managed by the Office of Diversity.