



Civitas Mock Legislature Background Paper

Impeachment

1. In our background paper on guns, we referenced the Second Amendment:

- a. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

There are those who think the wording of the Second is confusing. Let's look at the wording of what are grounds for impeachment and then discuss whether or not that might be confusing.

- i. Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution states, "The President, Vice President and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors."

2. So, are the reasons for which a federal official including the president should be impeached really clear?

3. On the process of impeachment:

- a. The House of Representatives can determine that the conduct of a federal official has given cause for there to be an investigation as to whether or not he or she has committed impeachable offenses.
- b. The House investigate possible charges. The investigation take place through committees such as the Judiciary Committee or the House Intelligence Committee.
- c. “Articles of impeachment,” i.e. charges against the individual can be drawn up. If any of the articles are approved by a committee, then the entire House (435 members) can vote on whether to adopt them.
- d. The Senate holds a trial on the Article(s) of Impeachment. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides.
- e. The Senate votes on whether the official should be convicted of any of the charges.
 - i. To date, no president has been **convicted** of any impeachment charges.

4. So now, make up hypothetical acts for which you think that a president should be impeached and convicted.

Should be convicted	Should not be convicted.
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.