

SMITH  
A-9

## The Bill of Rights and Me

The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments to The Constitution. It gives the American people freedoms and liberties that are often taken for granted. Every day our country is indeed America, the land of the free. Because of The Bill of Rights, I have secured freedoms, protection, and a fair and just law system.

Thanks to The Bill of Rights, I have freedoms that can't be taken away from me. It is important to remember that you can't do something if it inflicts on other's rights. The first amendment gives five freedoms: religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition. This means that I can choose to practice whatever religion I want, gather in groups without being arrested, and have peaceful protests. These things can't be forced upon me.

Amendments on the Bill of Rights give me protection against things unreasonably forced. I don't need to house soldiers, have irrational searches or seizures, or cruel punishments. The government cannot invade privacy without reason to do so. I don't need to be fearful about being tortured in ways that aren't humane. All these things constitute safeguards for me that can't be taken away.

The Bill of Rights gives structure to law and trials. I am incredibly grateful for the fifth amendment. It provides rights to a grand jury, double jeopardy, self-incrimination, and due process. If I am ever in a situation where I need those rights, I have the protection I need. Because of the Bill of Rights, I can have a lawyer even if I can't afford it. I am glad that we have a fair and just law that protects the accused.

Because of The Bill of Rights, I have *guaranteed* rights and liberties. They are assured! It is a blessing that the American people insisted on adding the Bill of Rights to be protected if their rights are violated. I am extremely grateful for the free country I have to live in and all the securities the Bill of Rights provides.