**Amending the Constitution**

The Constitution is a living document, and it can be changed formally. However, this process is lengthy. Approval of an amendment requires a 2/3 vote of both house of Congress (all 27 amendments used this process) and ratification by 3/4 the states (26 took this route). This is to ensure that amendments are carefully considered, appropriate for the national interest, and necessary for the long-term good of the country.

Your assignment is to write an amendment to the Constitution, which address an issue you consider important. As you write your amendment, keep the following in mind:

1. **Your amendment does NOT have to be written in formal language. It needs to be understandable and grammatically correct.**
2. **You must label where your amendment will be placed in the Constitution, where it applies. The placement must be appropriate.**
3. **Your amendment must address an issue of national (rather than state or local) importance.**
4. **Your amendment must address an issue that is not adequately addressed by other laws.**
5. **Your amendment must be FEASIBLE.**
6. **While we try to have fun in class, you must take this seriously.**

**Rubric**

Clear and concise language \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5)

Rationale is convincing and well supported \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (10)

Grammar and spelling is correct \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

Placed in appropriate section of the Constitution \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (18)**