



Supporting Claims with Evidence: The Second Amendment and Gun Control Debates

Task Instructions and Worksheet

Task Instructions:

You are a team of political strategists who must help prepare your candidate for a televised debate on the topic of the 2nd Amendment and gun control. You must make sure that the candidate:

- 1) understands the purpose and rights covered in the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution
- 2) can support the party position using specific evidence and reasoning from the following sources:
 - Text of the 2nd Amendment
 - Background Reading on Colonial Militias
 - *The Battle of Lexington*
 - Regulating Guns in U.S. History
- 3) uses a slogan that concisely conveys his/her position on gun control

With your team, reread the text of the 2nd amendment. Analyze the text and use the worksheet on the next page to write down, in general, the strongest way it supports your position. In the second column, write down the specific words or phrases that support your analysis. Do the same for the other three documents.

Your Candidate's Position (circle one):

Position 1: According to the Constitution, all people in the United States of America are guaranteed the right to own and/or carry any type of weapon, at any time, in any place.

Position 2. The Constitution does not prohibit states from regulating who is allowed to purchase guns, where people are allowed to carry them, and what kinds of guns are permitted.

Position 3. It is not a violation of the Second Amendment for local and state governments to, if they so desire, outlaw guns altogether, except in the case of the police, military, and National Guard (militia).



Source	How does this source support your position? (in your own words)	Evidence (in the document's words)
Text of the 2 nd Amendment		
Background Reading on Colonial Militias		
<i>The Battle of Lexington</i>		
Regulating Guns in U.S. History		

Help your candidate come up with a slogan by writing down key words that relate to your position (ex. right, infringe, militia):

Write your slogan:
