

# Benchmark 3.7

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<b>Core Idea</b>	<b>Analyze the impact of six amendments to the U.S. Constitution that affected voting rights.</b>
Focal Point #1	The 13 <sup>th</sup> Amendment makes no mention of voting rights; however, the first step to achieving voting rights is to become a citizen which is addressed in the 14 <sup>th</sup> Amendment. One cannot become a citizen if one is enslaved, which is addressed in the 13 <sup>th</sup> Amendment.
Focal Point #2	Voting rights bring political power. Political power gives citizens the right to decide who will have the power to make, enforce and (indirectly) judge laws such as laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunities (Civil Rights Act of 1964), public accommodations (Civil Rights Act of 1964) and nondiscrimination in housing (Civil Rights Act of 1968).
Focal Point #3	The 15 <sup>th</sup> Amendment protects voting rights outlined in the 14 <sup>th</sup> Amendment. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 removes barriers that were in place that prevented citizens from experiencing those rights.
Potential Concerns	The focus of the benchmark is the impact of the six amendments on minority participation in the political process. Students should be taught the substance of these amendments and laws as they impacted minority participation.

