

**RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED**

**"PLEADING THE FIFTH": SELF-INCRIMINATION AND THE FIFTH AMENDMENT**

**"Pleading the Fifth"  
Self-Incrimination and the Fifth Amendment  
by Tamara P. Uselman**

This lesson will teach students about the Fifth Amendment's protection against self incrimination by analyzing hypothetical situations applying the amendment.

**Students will:**

1. Learn that the Fifth Amendment protects against self-incrimination.
2. Learn about the application of the amendment, what is covered, what is not covered.
3. Apply their knowledge using discussion, compromising, debating, public speaking, analytical, and writing skills.

**Materials needed:** Copies of:

**Student Handout: FIFTH AMENDMENT**

**Student Handout: LECTURE WORKSHEET**

**Student Handout: YOU BE THE JUDGE**

**Student Handout: CITIZENSHIP MINI-QUIZ ON  
THE FIFTH**

**Student Handout: PERSUASION SPEECH ON SELF-  
INCRIMINATION AND THE FIFTH AMENDMENT**

Dictionaries

**Time needed:** 2 to 3 classes without essay, 4 to 5 classes with essay.

**Grade level:** 7th - 9th grades

**Procedure:**

1. Using **Student Handout: THE FIFTH AMENDMENT**, introduce students to the Fifth Amendment. Instruct them to read the Fifth Amendment and answer the questions.
2. Provide students with background information on the Fifth Amendment using the information contained in the teacher background. Have students complete **Student Handout: LECTURE WORKSHEET** at the close of the session. Review student answers using the key.