**Change by Informal Means**

**PART 1:** Formally amending the Constitution is but one way that we can change how our government works. Since 1789, there have been many informal ways by which we have change how the government operates and how the Constitution is used. There are five basic ways:

 **Define each of the following:**

1. Basic Legislation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Executive Action: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Court decisions: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Party practices: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Custom and usage: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**PART 2:** Each of the situations below is an example of one of the five informal means of changing the Constitution. Read each situation and then decide which of the five basic ways is being used.

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| **Situation** | **Method of Change Being Used** |
| 1. A law supporting segregation in schools is overturned.
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| 1. The President appoints a conservative judge to please the party’s conservative supporters.
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| 1. The State of the Union address is given each year roughly at the same time.
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| 1. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 extends protections against discrimination.
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| 1. No president before Franklin Roosevelt served more than two terms because they were following the example of George Washington.
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| 1. Since 1910 with William Howard Taft, the President of the United States throws the first pitch to start the season for the Washington nation
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| 1. Candidates for Presidency are selected by the Democrats and the Republicans.
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| 1. The President makes a security pact with India to safeguard against Pakistan’s nuclear weapons.
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| 1. Starting with Thomas Jefferson, every President since has ended the inauguration ceremony with parading down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House
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| 1. The Constitution says that Senators must be residents of the State that elects them. It does not say how long they must have lived in the State. Even so, if a person has not lived in a State for at least two years, he or she is normally not allowed to run as a candidate from that State.
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| 1. The President makes Puerto Rico the 51st state. He says he is following the precedent set by Thomas Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase.
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| 1. Congress passes a law to create special courts to handle cyber-crimes.
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| 1. The Supreme Court says that laws to limit carbon emissions should be left to the States. This decision limits Congress’s power to make environmental laws.
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| 1. A special Democratic convention is held. It will help identify possible nominees for the Supreme Court.
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| 1. Each year since 1947, the *National Turkey Federation* and the *Poultry and Egg National Board* have given a turkey to the [President of the United States](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0873867.html) at a White House ceremony; and since then, most Presidents have pardoned that Turkey and refused to have it cooked.
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| 1. Congress passed the 25th Amendment to clarify Presidential Succession- which deals with who takes over for the President should something happen to him and the Vice President.
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| 1. The Vietnam War was fought without an official declaration of war and under an order by the Commander in Chief, President Lyndon B. Johnson.
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| 1. The establishment of judicial review under the Marbury vs. Madison court case.
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| 1. The Electoral College now reflects each state's popular vote.
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| 1. Passage of the Title XI of the Higher Education Act of 1972 that states that “No person… shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in…any educational program or activity.”
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| 1. In a landmark decision by the United States Supreme Court, Chief Justice Earl Warren stated that criminals must be informed of their rights, or they are being denied their liberties granted by the Constitution.
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| 1. In Acton vs. Virginia (1995), the Supreme Court ruled that drug testing student-athletes was a reasonable way to prevent teen drug use and it is not a violation of a student’s 4th Amendment [unreasonable searches and seizures].
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