The Bill of Rights

Amendment 1– Freedoms of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, and Petition

Freedom of Religion means you have the right to believe and practice any religion that you want.

Freedom of Speech means you have the right to say whatever you want or whatever comes to your mind.

Freedom of the Press means that the government will not tell the news people such as the newspapers or the daily news you find on television what it can or cannot say.

Freedom of Assembly means that people have the right to gather in large groups. Usually people tend to gather in large groups when they are protesting (showing their dislike about something or someone).

Freedom of Petition means people have the right to protest through the use of a petition. A petition is a collection of signatures. When a person does not like a rule or a law, he or she can go around and gather the signatures (the way you sign your name) of people who also do not like the law or rule.

Amendment 2– Right to Bear Arms
People have the right to own a gun.

Amendment 3– Lodging Troops in Private Homes
This amendment does not allow the government to make us have soldiers living in our homes.

Amendment 4– Search and Seizure
The government or police officers do not have the right to come up to us and search us, our belongings, or our homes without a warrant. A warrant is a piece of paper given to an officer from the court. The only way to get a warrant is to show evidence that a person has done something wrong.

Amendment 5– Rights of the Accused
This amendments makes sure that a person being blamed for a crime receives a fair trial to try and convince others that they did not do the crime.
Amendment 6--Right to Speedy Trial by Jury
In criminal cases, the person accused of the crime has the right to a quick trial and a trial heard and decided by a jury. (A jury is a group of neutral citizens.) In other words, the court cannot make you wait years before you have your trial, and the court has to allow a jury to hear your case not just a judge.

Amendment 7--Jury Trial in Civil Cases
When there is a Civil Case (a case where one person sues another person for injuring them, destroying their property, etc.) that involves a complaint asking for more than $20, both parties have a right to have the case heard by a jury. The decision the jury reaches cannot be changed unless a legal error was made.

Amendment 8--Bail and Punishment
This amendment stops the courts from setting too high of a bail when a person goes on trial. Bail is money that the person being put on trial leaves with the court in order to promise that he or she will show up for the trial. If he or she does not appear for the trial, the court keeps the money. This amendment also stops judges from giving cruel and unusual punishments for crimes such as having to hop up and down for 12 hours straight.

Amendment 9--Powers Reserved to the People
This amendments states that the people have other rights that are not mentioned in the Constitution. For example, the right to wear the clothing of your choice is not mentioned in the Constitution, but you still have this right. The writers of the Constitution added this amendment so that the Bill of Rights could not limit people’s rights.

Amendment 10--Powers Reserved to the States
The Constitution clearly states the powers given to the federal government. However, the powers of the states are not outlined or spelled out clearly. This amendment simply says the powers not given to the federal government are given to the states.