

Amendment Tug-of-War Answer Key

Student answers should demonstrate these key ideas:

1. The 18th Amendment limited the freedom to buy, sell, or drink alcohol legally nationwide.
2. People supported Prohibition to reduce crime, protect families, encourage sobriety, and improve society.
3. The 21st Amendment responded to problems such as illegal crime growth, corruption, violent gangs, and widespread disobedience of the law.
4. Democratic laws can be changed by the people when they are unpopular, harmful, or ineffective, showing government must respond to society's needs.
5. Prohibition shows the tension between promoting public health/morality and respecting personal freedoms-democracy must try to balance both.

(Any well-reasoned responses addressing these ideas should be counted correct.)

Teacher's Guide

Before the Activity

- Review why Prohibition was passed and why it was later repealed
- Clarify terms: amendment, repeal, personal liberty, public good

Differentiation Tips

- Provide sentence stems: "One effect was...", "People believed that..."
- Allow students to discuss with a partner before writing
- Offer graphic organizers for note-taking on cause/effect

Engagement Strategies

- Class debate: "Should the government ever ban something to protect society?"
- Quick poll before and after activity to track shifting opinions
- Compare with other historical amendments that expanded or restricted freedoms