

## Oklahoma Bar Association

### Law Day 2025 Writing Prompts – *The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One*

*The questions below are designed to accompany the 2019 Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies published by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Numbers in parentheses represent the specific objective from those standards. The standards can be found at <https://bit.ly/3yfGDd7>.*

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Standards</b>	<b>Prompt</b>
1	(1.1.2, 1.3.2, 1.3.4)	Think about a person or group who has helped our country or community. What did they do to help others? How do we remember and celebrate them today?
2	(2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.1.5)	How can you use your rights and freedoms to make a difference in your community? Explain how you might get involved, such as by voting to elect leaders who represent you or by working with others to solve problems.
3	(3.1.1, 3.1.5)	The Constitution is a promise that we will work together as one country no matter our differences. How can government leaders show respect for all people in our community or state? Why is it important for people to work together and help each other, even if they have different ideas or backgrounds?
4	(4.1.1)	Imagine you're the president of your class and are in charge of creating rules that respect everyone's differences. Describe what treating everyone fairly means and explain why such rules are essential for building a strong classroom community. Reflect on how local, state and national leaders protect the rights and traditions of all people.
5	(5.5.3)	The U.S. Constitution unites us as citizens by giving us rights and responsibilities. Imagine you are turning 18 and preparing to take on all the responsibilities of citizenship – from voting and serving on juries to paying taxes and following laws. Which of these responsibilities do you think is the most important for keeping our country strong and united? Explain why you chose this responsibility and how it fosters cooperation and understanding among citizens from different backgrounds.

6	(6.3.6)	<p>In the United States, citizens help choose their leaders and make laws. Other countries have different ways of governing and giving rights to their people. How does being able to vote and having a voice in our government help unite Americans, even though we may have different opinions? How does this make our country special?</p> <p>Write a story about two people living in different countries – one in the United States and one in a country where citizens don't have the same freedoms. Through their online friendship, they discover how different their lives are when it comes to speaking up about issues in their communities. What happens when they both try to change something in their local neighborhoods?</p>
7	(7.3.2, 7.3.7, 7.3.8)	<p>Compare how citizens participate in government in the United States versus another country. How do differences in individual liberties affect people's ability to express their cultural traditions and heritage? Use specific examples to explain how the U.S. Constitution's protection of rights helps unite people from different backgrounds.</p> <p>Imagine you befriend a new student whose family just moved to the United States from a country with a stricter government. How does your new friend and their family adjust to American life – for example, voting in an election, being able to wear traditional clothing in public, organizing a cultural festival in their neighborhood, etc.? How do America's constitutional rights allow them to preserve their heritage while becoming part of their new community?</p>
8	(8.3.6)	<p>The U.S. Constitution lays the foundation for a government that aims to serve and protect its people through principles like federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, etc. Explain how one or more of these principles help keep the United States strong and united. Use examples from history, current events or your own life to show why this principle matters in keeping the government fair and balanced for everyone.</p>

		<p>Imagine you are a time traveler sent from the future to witness the early days of the U.S. government in action. Your mission is to observe how one principle – federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, etc. – works to protect the people and keep the nation united. Write a journal entry describing your experiences. What do you see, hear or feel as this principle is put into practice? How do people react, and what challenges or successes do you witness that make you realize why this principle is important for a fair and balanced government?</p>
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<p>High School</p>	<p>Oklahoma History (OKH.6.1)</p>	<p>When Oklahoma became a state, it needed a constitution that would unite diverse people – Native American nations, former territorial settlers, various cultural groups, etc. How did Oklahoma's Constitutional Convention attempt to fulfill the promise of "out of many, one." Was their approach similar to or different from the U.S. Constitution's method of bringing different groups together?</p> <p>Imagine you are a delegate at Oklahoma's Constitutional Convention in 1906, tasked with helping to write the new constitution. Your goal is to bring together people from many different backgrounds under one united government. Create a journal entry describing the challenges you face in finding common ground, the debates you hear around you and your hopes for how this new constitution can create a state where everyone feels represented. Do you look to the U.S. Constitution for inspiration, or do you believe Oklahoma needs a different approach?</p>
	<p>Sociology (S.5, S.6, S.7, S.8)</p>	<p>Consider how the Constitution's promise of equal protection under the law has helped unite Americans from different backgrounds over time. Choose a specific constitutional right and explain how it has evolved to include more groups of people, making our nation stronger through greater unity. What social changes made this expansion of rights possible?</p> <p>On a class field trip to the National Archives, you discover a mysterious touchscreen that lets you view snapshots of the same street corner across different decades. As you swipe through time, you notice how the same constitutional right affects different people's daily lives in each era. Describe how America's promise of equality has grown to embrace more people over time and what changes you think still need to be made.</p>
	<p>U.S. Government (USG.5)</p>	<p>In a world of increasing polarization, examine a recent example where citizens with different political views came together to address an issue through constitutional means (like petitioning, voting, peaceful assembly, etc.). How did these</p>

		<p>shared civic tools help bridge divisions and strengthen our democracy? Why is it essential for everyone to engage in civic life, and how does it help uphold the Constitution’s promise?</p> <p>Imagine you’re a young adult in a future society where community participation is rare. One day, you witness a crisis in your town and decide to take action through voting, volunteering, running for a local office, etc. Write a journal entry or letter describing how your choice impacts others around you and begins to bring people together. How does taking responsibility help restore unity and hope within your community?</p>
	<p>U.S. History (USH.2)</p>	<p>During the ratification of the Constitution, Americans were deeply divided about what powers the federal government should have. Choose a constitutional debate from our nation's early years and analyze how compromise helped unite the country. What lessons can we learn from their ability to find common ground despite their differences?</p> <p>Imagine you are a journalist in 1787, covering a heated debate over the U.S. Constitution. Choose a key issue – such as the balance of power between large and small states, the role of the executive branch, slavery, etc. – and interview prominent figures on each side. Describe how compromise emerged from this debate, uniting both sides despite their differences. How will this spirit of compromise help build a unified nation, and what can future leaders learn from their ability to find common ground in times of division?</p>
	<p>World History (WH.3)</p>	<p>During the Age of Revolution, nations around the world wrestled with how to unite diverse populations under new governments. Compare how the U.S. Constitution's approach to unifying different groups differed from another revolution of this period. What made the American concept of "out of many, one" distinctive?</p> <p>Imagine you are living during the Age of Revolution. Create a journal entry describing how your nation's new government is trying to unite diverse people.</p>

		<p>Reflect on the challenges you and your family face as citizens and whether the vision of "out of many, one" resonates with you or leaves you feeling left out. How does the revolutionary spirit both empower and divide the people around you? Share your perspective on what it means to be part of a new nation forged from many identities and traditions.</p>
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