

writing an application letter southern illinois university Complete Guide

Writing an application letter Southern Illinois University

When applying to Southern Illinois University (SIU), crafting an effective application letter is a crucial step that can significantly influence your admission decision. An application letter, often called a cover letter or statement of interest, provides the admissions committee with insight into your background, motivation, and suitability for the program. It is your opportunity to showcase your personality, academic achievements, and career goals while aligning your aspirations with SIU's values and offerings. In this guide, we will walk you through the process of writing a compelling application letter to Southern Illinois University, covering everything from understanding the purpose to structuring your letter and tips for making it stand out.

Understanding the Purpose of Your Application Letter

Why an Application Letter Matters

Your application letter serves several important purposes:

- **Introduce Yourself:** Present your academic background, professional experience, and personal motivations.
- **Express Your Interest:** Demonstrate why you are interested in SIU and the specific program or department.
- **Highlight Your Fit:** Show how your skills, experiences, and goals align with what SIU offers.
- **Persuade the Admissions Committee:** Convince them that you are a strong candidate deserving of admission.

When to Submit an Application Letter

- For graduate or professional programs, your application letter is often part of the overall application package.
- Sometimes, it is required as a supplemental document or a personal statement.
- Always review the specific program's application instructions on SIU's official website to determine the exact requirements.

Preparing to Write Your Application Letter

Research Southern Illinois University

Before writing, gather detailed information:

- Program details, faculty interests, and research opportunities.
- Mission, values, and campus culture.
- Unique features or strengths that attract you.
- Admission criteria and prerequisites.

Identify Your Goals and Strengths

Reflect on:

- Your academic achievements and relevant experiences.
- Your professional objectives.
- Skills and qualities that make you a strong candidate.
- How SIU can help you achieve your goals.

Gather Supporting Documents

Prepare:

- Resume or curriculum vitae.
- Transcripts.
- Letters of recommendation.
- Test scores, if applicable.
- Any additional documents required by the program.

Structuring Your Application Letter

A well-organized letter makes a positive impression. Follow this structure:

1. Header and Salutation

- Include your contact information at the top.

- Address the letter to the appropriate admissions officer or program director, using their name if available.
- Use a formal greeting, e.g., "Dear Dr. Smith," or "Dear Admissions Committee,".

2. Introduction

- State your purpose clearly: why you are writing.
- Mention the specific program or position at SIU.
- Briefly introduce yourself and your background.

Example:

> I am writing to express my interest in the Master of Science in Environmental Science program at Southern Illinois University. With a background in biology and a passion for sustainable development, I am eager to advance my knowledge and contribute to SIU's vibrant academic community.

3. Body Paragraphs

Divide the main content into 2-3 paragraphs focusing on:

a. Academic and Professional Background

- Highlight relevant education, research, or work experience.
- Mention any projects, publications, or achievements.

b. Why SIU?

- Explain why you chose SIU specifically.
- Reference faculty members, research centers, or courses that excite you.
- Show that you have researched the university thoroughly.

c. Your Goals and How SIU Fits In

- Describe your career aspirations.
- Clarify how SIU's program aligns with and supports your goals.
- Emphasize what you can contribute to the university community.

Sample Points:

- Your interest in SIU's research centers.
- Your desire to work with specific faculty.
- Your aim to develop skills relevant to your career path.

4. Closing Paragraph

- Summarize your interest and suitability.
- Express enthusiasm for the opportunity.
- Mention any enclosed or attached documents.
- Politely request consideration or an interview.

Example:

> I am confident that my academic background and professional aspirations make me a suitable candidate for SIU's Environmental Science program. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to and learn from the esteemed faculty and my peers. Thank you for considering my application.

5. Sign-Off

- Use a formal closing such as "Sincerely," or "Best regards,".
- Include your full name.
- Add your contact information if not included at the top.

Tips for Writing an Effective Application Letter

- **Customize Your Letter:** Tailor each letter to the specific program or department at SIU. Avoid generic content.
- **Be Concise and Clear:** Keep your letter focused, ideally one page long. Use clear language and avoid jargon.
- **Show Enthusiasm:** Convey genuine interest and passion for your field and SIU.
- **Highlight Unique Qualities:** Emphasize what sets you apart from other candidates.
- **Proofread Carefully:** Check for grammatical errors, typos, and formatting issues. Consider asking someone else to review it.
- **Follow Application Guidelines:** Adhere to word limits, formatting, and submission procedures specified by SIU.

Additional Tips for Specific Programs

- Undergraduate Applicants: Focus on your academic interests, extracurricular activities, and how SIU aligns with your aspirations.
- Graduate Applicants: Emphasize research interests, faculty collaborations, and your readiness for advanced study.
- International Applicants: Address language proficiency, cultural adaptation, and motivations for studying in the U.S.

Submitting Your Application Letter

- Ensure your letter is formatted as a PDF or Word document as specified.
- Attach or upload your letter via the university's online application portal.
- Follow any additional instructions provided by SIU's admissions office.

Conclusion

Writing an application letter for Southern Illinois University is a vital step in your admission journey. A well-crafted letter not only highlights your qualifications but also demonstrates your enthusiasm and fit for the program. By conducting thorough research, organizing your thoughts clearly, and tailoring your message to SIU's values and offerings, you increase your chances of making a positive impression. Remember to proofread carefully and adhere to all application guidelines. With a compelling application letter, you can stand out among applicants and move closer to achieving your academic and professional goals at Southern Illinois University.

Writing an Application Letter for Southern Illinois University: A Comprehensive Guide

Writing an application letter Southern Illinois University can be a pivotal step toward achieving your academic or professional goals at one of Illinois's most respected institutions. A well-crafted application letter not only reflects your qualifications and enthusiasm but also demonstrates your understanding of the university's values and expectations. Whether you're applying for admission, a scholarship, or a specific program, tailoring your letter effectively can significantly influence your chances of success. This article provides a detailed, step-by-step guide to help you write a compelling application letter for Southern Illinois University (SIU), blending technical precision with reader-friendly insights.

Understanding the Purpose of Your Application Letter

Before diving into the writing process, it's crucial to understand exactly what your application letter

aims to accomplish. Generally, application letters serve as an introduction to your profile, highlighting your motivations, achievements, and suitability for the opportunity you're pursuing at SIU.

Key Objectives:

- Showcase your academic or professional credentials
- Convey your enthusiasm and reasons for choosing SIU
- Demonstrate how your goals align with the university's mission
- Address any specific requirements or questions posed by the application process

Having a clear understanding of these objectives ensures that your letter remains focused and impactful.

Researching Southern Illinois University: Know Your Audience

A successful application letter hinges on understanding what SIU values and expects from its applicants. Conduct thorough research to customize your letter accordingly.

Strategies for Effective Research:

- Visit SIU's official website and review program descriptions
- Read about the university's mission, core values, and recent initiatives
- Review admission guidelines and criteria for the specific program or position
- Connect with current students, alumni, or faculty if possible, to gain insider perspectives

This knowledge allows you to tailor your content, demonstrating genuine interest and cultural fit, which are crucial factors for admissions officers.

Structuring Your Application Letter: The Technical Framework

A professional application letter should follow a clear, logical structure that facilitates easy reading and comprehension. The typical format includes:

- Header
- Salutation
- Introduction
- Body Paragraphs

- Conclusion
- Closing and Signature

Let's explore each component in detail.

Crafting the Header and Salutation

Header:

- Use your contact information at the top: name, address, phone number, email
- Include the date
- Follow with the recipient's contact details: department, office, or specific individual's name if known

Salutation:

- Address the letter to a specific person whenever possible, e.g., "Dear Dr. Smith," or "Dear Admissions Committee," if no individual is specified
- Avoid generic greetings like "To Whom It May Concern" unless necessary

Writing the Introduction: Engaging and Purposeful

Your opening paragraph should immediately introduce who you are and why you are writing.

Key elements:

- State your intent clearly, e.g., applying for a specific program, scholarship, or position
- Mention how you learned about the opportunity
- Briefly highlight your current status or background

Example:

"I am writing to express my interest in the Master of Business Administration program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. As a dedicated professional with over five years of experience in financial analysis, I am eager to enhance my skills and contribute to SIU's dynamic academic community."

An effective introduction captures attention and sets a positive tone for the rest of the letter.

Developing the Body: Showcasing Your Qualifications and Fit

The body of your application letter is where you substantiate your claims, provide evidence of your qualifications, and demonstrate alignment with SIU's values.

Key Focus Areas:

- Academic achievements: GPA, relevant coursework, honors
- Professional experience: internships, jobs, projects
- Skills and competencies: leadership, communication, technical skills
- Personal qualities: motivation, resilience, adaptability
- Specific motivations: why SIU? How does the program align with your goals?

Tips for Effective Content:

- Use concrete examples to illustrate your points
- Quantify achievements where possible (e.g., "Increased sales by 20%")
- Connect your experiences to what SIU offers, showing you've researched their programs

Sample paragraph:

"During my tenure as a financial analyst at XYZ Corp, I led a team that implemented a new budgeting system, resulting in a 15% reduction in operational costs. This experience cultivated my analytical skills and leadership abilities, which I am eager to further develop through SIU's renowned MBA program, known for its emphasis on practical management strategies."

Addressing Specific Requirements:

If the application asks for particular documents or topics, address them explicitly in your letter. For example, if you need to explain a gap in your education, do so honestly and positively.

Concluding the Letter: Summing Up and Call to Action

Your conclusion should succinctly summarize your interest and qualities, reaffirm your enthusiasm, and politely prompt further engagement.

Essentials:

- Restate your desire to join SIU
- Summarize why you're a strong candidate
- Express openness to an interview or providing additional information

Example:

"I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to and grow within Southern Illinois University's academic community. I am confident that my background and aspirations align well with SIU's mission, and I welcome the chance to discuss my application further."

Closing and Signature

End your letter professionally:

- Use a formal closing such as "Sincerely," or "Respectfully,"
- Leave space for your signature (if submitting a hard copy)
- Type your full name beneath

Final Tips for Writing a Strong Application Letter

- Be concise and clear: Aim for one page; avoid unnecessary jargon
- Personalize your letter: Tailor each letter to the specific program or opportunity
- Proofread meticulously: Check for grammatical errors, typos, and formatting issues
- Maintain a professional tone: Be respectful, positive, and confident
- Use formal language: Avoid slang or overly casual phrases

Additional Resources and Support

- University's official guidelines: Always review SIU's specific application instructions
- Sample letters: Review templates and samples online for inspiration
- Writing centers: Utilize university writing centers or professional editors if needed

Conclusion

Writing an application letter Southern Illinois University is a strategic process that combines technical writing skills with genuine self-presentation. A compelling application letter can open doors to educational opportunities and help you stand out among a competitive pool of applicants. By thoroughly researching SIU, structuring your letter effectively, and articulating your qualifications

authentically, you enhance your chances of making a positive impression. Remember, your application letter is your personal narrative?craft it thoughtfully to tell your story compellingly and convincingly, paving the way toward your academic and professional aspirations at SIU.

Question What are the key components to include when writing an application letter for Southern Illinois University? Your application letter should include a clear introduction stating your purpose, a summary of your academic background and qualifications, specific reasons for choosing SIU, how you meet the program requirements, and a professional closing with contact information. **How should I address my application letter to Southern Illinois University?** Address your letter to the admissions office or the specific department or program coordinator if known. Use a formal salutation such as 'Dear Admissions Committee' or 'Dear [Department Name] Admissions Team.' **What tone should I use in my application letter for Southern Illinois University?** Maintain a professional, respectful, and enthusiastic tone. Be concise, genuine, and demonstrate your motivation and readiness to contribute to the university community. **Are there specific formatting guidelines I should follow for my application letter to SIU?** Yes, use a standard business letter format with a professional font (e.g., Times New Roman, 12pt), proper margins, and clear paragraphs. **Keep the letter to one page unless otherwise specified.** **Should I mention specific programs or faculty in my application letter to SIU?** Yes, mentioning specific programs, research opportunities, or faculty members demonstrates your genuine interest and shows that you've researched the university thoroughly. **How can I make my application letter stand out for Southern Illinois University?** Highlight your unique experiences, skills, and achievements relevant to the program. Connect your goals with what SIU offers, and convey your passion for contributing to the campus community. **Is it necessary to include my academic transcripts or other documents in the application letter?** No, the application letter itself should not include transcripts. However, mention in your letter that you have submitted or will submit supporting documents as required by the application process. **When should I send my application letter to Southern Illinois University?** Submit your application letter along with all supporting documents before the university's application deadline to ensure timely consideration of your application.

Related keywords: application letter, Southern Illinois University, cover letter, admission letter, university application, SIU application, graduate application, undergraduate application, admission process, application tips

illinois constitution 8th grade exam answers

Understanding the Illinois Constitution 8th Grade Exam Answers

Illinois Constitution 8th grade exam answers are essential resources for students preparing for

their social studies assessments. These answers help students grasp the core concepts of Illinois government, history, and the rights guaranteed to its citizens. As students progress through middle school, understanding the Illinois Constitution becomes vital not only for exams but also for developing an informed perspective on state governance and civic responsibilities. This article provides comprehensive insights into the Illinois Constitution, typical exam questions, and effective strategies for mastering the 8th grade exam.

Overview of the Illinois Constitution

What Is the Illinois Constitution?

The Illinois Constitution is the fundamental legal document that establishes the structure of Illinois state government, defines the rights of its citizens, and sets the framework for state laws. It is the highest legal authority in Illinois, guiding the operation of government agencies, the election process, and the rights of residents.

History of the Illinois Constitution

- The first Illinois Constitution was adopted in 1818 when Illinois became a state.
- The current Illinois Constitution was adopted in 1970, replacing the 1870 version.
- It has been amended multiple times to adapt to changing needs and legal standards.

Main Sections of the Illinois Constitution

- Preamble
- Articles on Bill of Rights, the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch, Local Government, Education, and more.
- Amendments and supplementary provisions

Key Topics Typically Covered in the 8th Grade Exam

1. Illinois Government Structure

Understanding how Illinois' government is organized is fundamental. The Illinois government operates under a three-branch system similar to the federal government:

- Legislative Branch (Illinois General Assembly)
- Executive Branch (Governor)

- Judicial Branch (State Courts)

2. Rights of Citizens

The Illinois Constitution guarantees fundamental rights, including freedom of speech, religion, and equal protection under the law.

3. State Symbols and Facts

Students often need to know state symbols like the state bird (Northern Cardinal), state flower (Violet), and other facts about Illinois history.

4. Voting and Elections

Understanding who can vote, how elections are conducted, and the importance of civic participation.

5. Local Government and Responsibilities

Role of counties, cities, and towns in Illinois and their responsibilities.

6. Amendments and How They Are Made

Process for amending the Illinois Constitution, including proposal and ratification procedures.

Sample Questions and Answers for the Illinois Constitution 8th Grade Exam

Question 1: What are the three branches of Illinois government?

- Legislative Branch
- Executive Branch
- Judicial Branch

Answer: The three branches are the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, and the Judicial Branch.

Question 2: Who is the head of Illinois' executive branch?

Answer: The Governor is the head of Illinois' executive branch.

Question 3: What is the main purpose of the Illinois Bill of Rights?

Answer: To guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms of Illinois citizens, including freedom of speech, religion, and protection against unfair treatment.

Question 4: How can the Illinois Constitution be amended?

- The amendment is proposed by a vote of three-fifths of both houses of the Illinois General Assembly.
- The proposed amendment is then approved by a majority vote in a statewide referendum.

Answer: Amendments are proposed by the Illinois General Assembly and must then be approved by voters in a statewide referendum.

Question 5: Name two state symbols of Illinois.

Answer: The Northern Cardinal (bird) and Violet (flower).

Effective Strategies for Studying Illinois Constitution 8th Grade Exam Answers

1. Use Practice Tests

Regularly taking practice exams helps familiarize students with the format and types of questions asked.

2. Focus on Key Sections

Prioritize understanding the Bill of Rights, government structure, voting rights, and amendment procedures.

3. Create Flashcards

Use flashcards for memorizing state symbols, key facts, and important articles of the Constitution.

4. Discuss with Classmates or Teachers

Group study sessions encourage discussion and clarification of difficult concepts.

5. Review Past Exam Questions

Analyzing previous exam questions helps identify common themes and question styles.

Additional Resources for Illinois Constitution Exam Preparation

Online Practice Tests and Quizzes

Numerous websites offer free practice quizzes tailored to Illinois Constitution topics.

Illinois State Government Website

Official resources provide the full text of the Illinois Constitution and educational materials.

School Textbooks and Study Guides

Utilize textbooks and guides designed for Illinois middle school social studies curricula.

Local Library and Community Centers

Many offer workshops, study sessions, or materials focused on civics education.

Conclusion: Mastering the Illinois Constitution for the 8th Grade Exam

Success in the Illinois 8th grade social studies exam hinges on understanding the core principles and details of the Illinois Constitution. By focusing on key topics such as government structure, citizen rights, state symbols, and the amendment process, students can confidently approach their exams. Utilizing practice questions, engaging in discussions, and accessing reliable resources will enhance learning and retention. Remember, mastering the Illinois Constitution not only helps you ace your exam but also prepares you to be an informed and active citizen of Illinois.

Final Tips for Students:

- Review regularly rather than cramming.
- Focus on understanding concepts rather than just memorizing facts.
- Stay curious about Illinois history and government.
- Practice answering questions aloud to improve recall and confidence.

Good luck with your Illinois Constitution 8th grade exam preparation!

Illinois Constitution 8th Grade Exam Answers

Understanding the Illinois Constitution is a crucial part of civic education for middle school students, especially those preparing for the 8th grade exams. As an essential foundation of Illinois' legal and governmental framework, the constitution details the structure of state government, citizens' rights, and the functioning of state institutions. In this comprehensive review, we will explore the key components of the Illinois Constitution relevant to the 8th-grade level, providing detailed explanations and insights to help students succeed in their exams.

Overview of the Illinois Constitution

The Illinois Constitution is the fundamental legal document that establishes the organization, powers, and limitations of Illinois' government. It serves as the state's blueprint, guiding how laws are made, executed, and interpreted. The current Illinois Constitution was adopted in 1970, replacing the 1870 Constitution, and it emphasizes citizen rights, government accountability, and modern governance structures.

Key Features of the Illinois Constitution:

- It is a written document, providing clear rules and provisions.
- It establishes a government divided into three branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.
- It guarantees individual rights and liberties.
- It includes provisions for local government and amendments.

For students, understanding these core features is vital, as exam questions often focus on the structure and functions outlined within the document.

The Structure of the Illinois Government

The Illinois Constitution creates a government similar to the federal system but tailored to state needs. It divides authority among three branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial, and defines their specific powers and responsibilities.

The Legislative Branch

The Illinois General Assembly is the state's law-making body, composed of two chambers:

- The Senate: Consists of 59 members serving four-year terms.
- The House of Representatives: Comprises 118 members serving two-year terms.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Passing laws
- Approving budgets
- Checking the executive branch
- Making amendments to the state constitution

Key Points for Exam:

- The General Assembly's power to create laws
- The process of passing legislation
- The role of state senators and representatives

The Executive Branch

Led by the Governor, the executive branch executes state laws and oversees the operation of the government.

Governor's Powers Include:

- Signing or vetoing laws
- Appointing officials and judges
- Managing state agencies
- Serving as commander-in-chief of the state militia
- Proposing budgets

Other Executive Officers:

- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Comptroller
- Treasurer

Important for Students:

- Understanding the governor's role and powers
- Recognizing other key executive officials and their functions

The Judicial Branch

The Illinois judicial system interprets laws and ensures justice.

Main Courts:

- Supreme Court: The highest court, consisting of seven justices.
- Appellate Courts: Review decisions from lower courts.
- Circuit Courts: The trial courts handling criminal and civil cases.

Judicial Powers:

- Interpreting the laws and constitution
- Settling disputes
- Protecting individual rights

Exam Focus:

- The structure of Illinois courts
- The role of the Illinois Supreme Court
- Judicial review and its importance

Amendments to the Illinois Constitution

The Illinois Constitution can be amended to adapt to changing needs. The process involves several steps:

- Proposal: An amendment can be proposed by a two-thirds vote in both chambers of the General Assembly or through a constitutional convention.
- Approval: The proposed amendment is then submitted to voters in a referendum.
- Ratification: If approved by a majority of voters, the amendment becomes part of the constitution.

Common Areas of Amendments:

- Expanding rights

- Adjusting government structure
- Clarifying laws

Exam Tip: Remember that amendments are a formal way to update the constitution, reflecting the evolving values and needs of Illinois residents.

Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities

The Illinois Constitution guarantees various rights to its citizens, emphasizing democracy, equality, and justice.

Fundamental Rights

- Freedom of speech, religion, and the press
- Right to assemble and petition
- Rights to a fair trial
- Protection against unreasonable searches and seizures
- Equal protection under the law

Additional Rights and Protections

- Education rights
- Environmental protections
- Rights related to privacy and due process

Responsibilities include:

- Voting in elections
- Obeying laws
- Serving on juries when called
- Respecting others' rights

Exam Tips:

- Be familiar with key rights protected in the Illinois Constitution.
- Understand the importance of civic duties.

Local Government and Its Role

In addition to state government, the Illinois Constitution recognizes the importance of local governments, including counties, cities, villages, and townships.

Functions of Local Governments:

- Providing public services (fire, police, sanitation)
- Managing local roads and infrastructure
- Enacting ordinances and zoning laws
- Collecting local taxes

Local Government Structure:

- County boards
- City councils
- Village boards
- Township governments

Understanding how local governments operate and their relationship with state government is often tested, especially regarding their powers and responsibilities.

Common Exam Questions and How to Answer Them

To excel in the Illinois 8th grade exam on the constitution, students should practice answering common question types, such as multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Sample Question Types:

- What are the three branches of Illinois government?

Answer: The Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches.

- Who is the head of the Illinois executive branch?

Answer: The Governor.

- Describe the process for amending the Illinois Constitution.

Answer: An amendment can be proposed by the General Assembly with a two-thirds vote or through a constitutional convention, then approved by voters in a referendum.

- List three rights guaranteed by the Illinois Constitution.

Answer: Freedom of speech, right to a fair trial, and protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Tips for Success:

- Review key vocabulary and definitions.
- Practice explaining concepts clearly and concisely.
- Use examples to demonstrate understanding.

Final Thoughts and Recommendations for Students

Preparing for the Illinois 8th grade exam on the constitution requires a comprehensive understanding of the document's structure, contents, and significance. Students should focus on grasping the roles and powers of government branches, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and the processes for change and governance at both state and local levels.

Study Strategies:

- Create flashcards for key terms and concepts.
- Practice answering sample questions.
- Discuss topics with classmates or teachers to reinforce understanding.
- Use online resources and practice quizzes to test knowledge.

Conclusion:

Mastering the Illinois Constitution is not just about passing an exam; it's about understanding how your state government works and your role as a citizen. By thoroughly studying the core components outlined here, students can confidently approach their 8th grade tests, contribute to their communities, and become informed voters and active participants in Illinois' democracy.

Remember: Civic education is the foundation of active citizenship. Prepare well, stay curious, and

engage with your community to make the most of your knowledge about Illinois? government and constitution.

QuestionAnswer What is the purpose of the Illinois Constitution for 8th-grade students studying government? The Illinois Constitution provides the fundamental laws and principles that govern the state, helping students understand how Illinois is organized and how its government functions. How many articles are in the Illinois Constitution that 8th graders should know? The Illinois Constitution contains 14 articles that outline the structure of the government, rights of citizens, and other important provisions relevant for students studying for exams. What are some key rights guaranteed by the Illinois Constitution that 8th graders should learn? The Illinois Constitution guarantees fundamental rights such as freedom of speech, the right to a fair trial, and protection against discrimination, which are important for students to understand. How can 8th-grade students best prepare for questions about Illinois Constitution exam answers? Students should review key topics, such as the structure of Illinois government, the roles of its branches, and important amendments, using study guides, class notes, and practice quizzes. Why is it important for 8th graders to study the Illinois Constitution? Studying the Illinois Constitution helps students understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens and prepares them to participate knowledgeably in civic life.

Related keywords: Illinois Constitution, 8th grade social studies, Illinois government, Illinois history, state constitution quiz, civics test Illinois, Illinois legislative process, Illinois state symbols, Illinois amendments, Illinois constitution study guide

Read the full article online: [Illinois constitution 8th grade exam answers](#)