

| Document | Who wrote it? Year it was written. | Why was it written and/or events leading up to document | What was the outcome? What rights were won? |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Magna Carta | English nobles 1215 | The king had complete power | ruler must obey the laws the fine must fit the crime could not be jailed unfairly property cannot be taken away (helped only the nobles) |
| First Charter of Virginia | Virginia Company of London / king 1606/1607 | Business agreement Virginia Company wanted gold | outlined the government granted colonists the same rights as citizens in England |
| Mayflower Compact | 41 pilgrims on the Mayflower 1620 | To set up the government and rules for running the new colony | people choose their leaders people vote directly free male citizens vote laws are written down laws would be just and equal people promise to obey the laws for the good of the community everyone is equal under the law |
| English Bill of Rights | Parliament 1689 William & Mary | To establish Parliament as the only maker of laws | fundamental civil liberties granted to citizens Parliament could make laws, raise taxes, and control army |
| Virginia Declaration of Rights | George Mason June 12, 1776 | Declaration of Independence was about to be signed to break away from England. Virginia wanted a list of guarantees for its citizens | guaranteed basic rights trial by jury equity and freedom not tax without consent no cruel punishment created a three-branch government |

| Document | Who wrote it? Year it was written. | Why was it written and/or events leading up to document | What was the outcome? What rights were won? |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Declaration of Independence | Thomas Jefferson July 4, 1776 | King had not treated colonies with equity Declared the colonies free from English rule | listed complaints against the king: the king broke social contract colonies had no representation in Parliament high taxes resulted in war with Britain and 13 independent states |
| Virginia Constitution | James Madison 1776 | To provide a plan of government for Virginia and its citizens | legislative branch (two-house legislature) executive branch (governor & Lt. governor) judicial branch (courts system) right to create local governments |
| Articles of Confederation | Members of the 2 nd Continental Congress 1778-1779 | To bring the states together into a single country | one-house legislature each state had one vote had limited powers could not enforce laws could not collect taxes lasted until 1787 (1789) |
| Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom | Thomas Jefferson 1785 | To guarantee the "natural right" of religious freedom | citizens can decide if they want to attend church (or not) may not be deprived of the right to religious beliefs |
| United States Constitution | James Madison 1787 (signed) 1789 (ratified) | To have a written plan of government. The Articles of Confederation too weak; States had too much power | federalism (division of powers into two levels) popular sovereignty (voting) separation of powers (3 branches) limited government (checks and balances) it inspired other countries to create democracies |