

## **$\frac{3}{5}$ constitution**

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I was inspired by Ben Ripley (<http://benripley.net/home.html>) when creating this work-- he does some really thought-provoking things when it comes to working with documents. The U.S. Constitution is one document that means radically different things to white and black people in the U.S. I was wondering how the first article of the constitution (the one that establishes the  $\frac{3}{5}$  compromise) could be altered so that the implications and impact of the document would shine through. I read through the document and, after every 5 words, I removed 2-- leaving  $\frac{3}{5}$ 's of the original document intact, while keeping the pace of the original text. It was important to me to remove words by this method, rather than just removing  $\frac{2}{5}$ 's of the document as a whole. By instituting a constraint, I figured I would limit my ability to insert my own voice. The gaps are awkward, and you can tell that there are words missing: What remains, though, tells a similar story as the original, but exposes the power dynamics at play.

People of the States, Order to form a  
Union, establish , insure domestic , provide for  
defence, promote Welfare, and secure the Blessings  
to ourselves Posterity, do ordain this  
Constitution for States

**Article. I.**

**Section. 1.**

All Powers herein be vested in  
the United States, which consist of Senate and House

**Section. 2.**

The House shall be Members chosen every  
second by the several States, and in  
each State shall have the requisite of the  
most of the State .

No Person be a who have attained the  
Age of Years, and been a Citizen of  
States, and shall not, elected, be of State  
in he shall be .

Representatives direct Taxes apportioned among the  
States included within this , to their  
respective Numbers, which determined by the whole  
Number of free Persons, including those bound Service a  
Years, and excluding Indians , three fifths all other  
. The Enumeration be within Years after  
first Meeting the Congress of States, every  
subsequent Term Years, in such Manner as by direct.  
Number of not exceed one for every  
, but each State have one ; and  
until enumeration be made, State of New  
be entitled to three, eight, and  
Plantations one, five, six, New  
four, eight, one, Maryland six, ten, North  
five, South five, three.

vacancies happen in the any State, Executive  
Authority shall issue Election to fill Vacancies.

House shall chuse Speaker and  
Officers; and have the Power of .