Section 2

Formal Amendment

The Framers of the Constitution knew they could not possibly foresee all the changes that could impact their new country, so they included mechanisms to allow future generations to adapt the Constitution to changing times. However, the amendment process they created is rigorous, and many proposed amendments do not make it into the Constitution. In the mid-1990s, the balanced budget and term limits amendments were popular proposals that never had enough support to become ratified amendments. Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.

Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. What mythical figures do the characters in the coffins represent?
2. What do the coffins represent?
3. What is the cartoonist saying about the amendments?
4. Identifying Alternatives What is another way that the concept of this cartoon could be illustrated?