



We the People
THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

Rules for Middle School Competition

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is intended for all students. Middle schools with classes competing in the We the People simulated congressional hearings must comply with the following rules:

1. Teachers must provide a copy of their official class roster.
2. The Center is committed to encouraging the widest possible participation from a broad range of students with the continued emphasis on the involvement of all members of a class. For purposes of the competition a “class” must
 - be constituted according to the school’s normal policies and procedures for student admittance to a class;
 - be designated on the school's master program (schedule of class offerings) as a required or elective class;
 - be in session during the regular hours of the school day;
 - have all enrollees entered in the teacher’s record book;
3. In addition to meeting during regularly scheduled class periods, students are permitted to meet for extended study and preparation for simulated congressional hearings. If a class ends before the scheduled dates for holding district, regional, state, and national competitions, it is understood that preparation for the competition will take place after the class has ended.
4. Students are allowed to compete at the middle school level for more than one year if they meet the other requirements of the program. For example, students who have competed at a middle school district, regional, state, or national competition may compete again at that same level of competition in a future year. Students who have previously competed must adhere to all other rules. Additionally, all middle school students are allowed to participate in the high school competition.
5. Each class must be divided into six groups and each group will be responsible for “testifying” on their assigned unit of the text. Each group must have at least three members and the number of students in each group should be as equal as possible. No student may be in more than one group unless a class has fewer than 18 students.

6. When a class has fewer than 18 students, teachers may allow some students to participate in two groups but not more than two. The number of students allowed to participate in more than one group is determined by the total number of students in the class.

Number of students in class	Number of different students participating in two groups
17	1
16	2
15	3
14	4
13	5
12	6
11	7
10	8
9	9

7. The class roster shall identify the unit to which each student is assigned. A class roster is required for each level of competition (district, regional, state, and national). Teachers may change student unit assignments for each level of competition, if they so desire. New students, however, may not be added to a roster after a class enters its first level of competition without permission from the We the People state coordinator. Once a class is defined by its roster as being composed of specific students, the same students must participate in all levels of competition. If a student(s) drops out of a class for reasons beyond their control, verification must be sent to the We the People state coordinator.

No class with fewer than nine students will be eligible to compete.

8. Two middle school classes may be combined in order to participate in the competition if the total number of students in the combined class does not exceed 36 students. The combining of two classes must have the approval of the state coordinator. Both classes must also meet the definition of a “class.” All students in both classes must be listed on the class roster and all students must participate in the hearing competition.

9. The timing for the hearing will include the following. Each unit will prepare testimony on their specific question. Four minutes have been allocated for the prepared presentation/testimony. This should be prepared in advance and practiced to remain within the four minute time period. The prepared testimony will be followed by six minutes of follow up questions. The judges will ask follow-up questions, and these will not be provided to students in advance.