

Action Plan for Teaching the WTP Program By: Tracey Williams

- 1. Read all of the units and the lessons in the WTP textbooks that adequately cover your hearing questions. I suggest that you complete this task before you start working with your kids.**
 - **Unit I Lessons 1-5 covers the middle school questions adequately**
 - **Unit 1 Lessons 1,2,5,7 covers the high school questions adequately**
 - **Thoroughly read the United States Constitution, published books, and scholarly articles pertaining to the hearing questions**
 - **Make certain you take notes on all of the info. you read and highlight info. in the WTP books**

- 2. Once you begin working with your students introduce the WTP program to them, explaining that it is a government/civics based educational program that teaches the fundamental principles of the U.S. gov't. Then ask students what do they know about the governmental system? From there you can conduct a brainstorming session, recording and discussing student responses. This would be an excellent manner in which to begin coaching your students.**

- 3. Assign h/w from the WTP textbook, i.e., lesson reading, lesson/unit review questions, critical thinking activities, key terms, read and interpret court cases, reading of published books, and scholarly articles.**
 - **Begin each practice sessions by going over the previously assigned h/w.**

- **Have students begin to work on their debating skills by having them support varying positions on a specific issue, examples can be used from the WTP textbook or current event issues.**
- 4. Once you have completed teaching the primary lessons from the textbook you should have your students begin to write their opening statements.**
- **I recommend that you are very “hands on” during this process.**
 - **However, do not write the opening statements for your students.**
 - **Provide your students with the support and guidance needed to produce an exceptional opening statement.**
 - **Once the statements are complete revise and edit them.**
 - **Make certain the statements are 4 minutes in length.**
- 5. Presentation- this is a very important component of the hearing process. Make certain the following guidelines are adhered to, referred to by me as PEEES:**
- **Students must have good posture when sitting before the judges**
 - **Students must have good eye contact**
 - **Students must demonstrate excellent delivery emphasizing very important points when reading the opening statements**
 - **Students must demonstrate perfect enunciation of words when reading the opening statements**
 - **Finally, students should be pleasant when they go before the judges, they must smile**

Important Points to Remember

- **All of the research that you and your students will complete will provide them with great depth and**

understanding of the U.S. governmental system, which will allow them to respond adequately to the judges inquiry, which will be six minutes in length

- **Your students opening statements should be written in such a manner that takes away as many of the judges initial questions as possible**
- **Produce a bibliography of all of the books and scholarly articles that you and your students read for future reference**

Suggested Reading

- **The U.S. Constitution By: Christine Peterson**
- **Understanding the Constitution : The Most Important Document in America By: Sally Isaacs and Baron Bedesky**