



We the People THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

Directed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by the United States Congress.

Rules for High School Competition 2008–2009

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is intended for all students. High 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 (form attached), signed by their school principal or other appropriate school administrator, as a confirmation that the class meets the competition rules.
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; and
 - provide graduation credit(s) to students for satisfactory course completion.
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 who have previously participated in the high school competitive option at the congressional district, regional, state, or national level will not be allowed to compete in the oral presentation or questioning at any subsequent competition at congressional district, regional, state, or national levels. However, students who are rostered in a class participating in the competition and who have previously competed may attend hearings as teaching assistants and/or spectators. Students who have participated in elementary and or middle school hearings are eligible to participate in the high school competition.

5. Teachers agree to teach the entire six units of the curriculum. The Center provides a multiple-choice test that teachers may use to evaluate students' knowledge acquisition. The test may help teachers assess the readiness of students for participation in the competition. Teachers may use an alternate test if they chose, or administer the Center test again and remedy weaknesses until a desired score is attained.
6. Each class must be divided into six groups, each responsible for "testifying" on their assigned unit of the text. Each group must comprise 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.
7. When a class has fewer than 18 students, teachers may allow some students to participate in two groups but not more than two. The total number of students in the class determines the number of students allowed to participate in more than one group.

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

8. 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). If desired, teachers may change student unit assignments for each level of competition. 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 and the national program director, Robert Leming. 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 drops out of a class for reasons beyond their control, verification by the school's principal must be sent to the **We the People** state coordinator and the national program director. No class with fewer than nine students will be eligible to compete.
9. Two high school classes may be combined in order to participate in the competition if the resulting total number of students does not exceed 35. The combining of two classes must have the approval of both the district and state coordinator, and both classes must 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.