



We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution



LEFT: 2007 We the People Middle School text LEFT CENTER: 2005 California State Finals Competition RIGHT CENTER: 2004 Congressional Conference RIGHT: 2006 National Finals Competition

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act passed by the United States Congress.

The primary goals of the We the People program are to foster a reasoned commitment to the fundamental values and principles of American constitutional democracy and to promote civic competence and responsibility among the nation's elementary and secondary students. For more information, see www.civiced.org.

PROGRAM IMPACT ON STUDENT KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ATTITUDES

- Annual surveys consistently show that high school students who take part in the We the People academic competition outperform national samples of high school students participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) political test by at least 22%.
- Independent studies by the Education Testing Service (ETS) have shown that high school students who participate in the We the People program outperform university students on tests of political knowledge.
- Students who participate in the program are more politically tolerant and have a greater commitment to principles and values in the Constitution and Bill of Rights than the average American, according to a study conducted by Stanford University professor, Dr. Richard Brody.

- *"Before I began my civics class and the We the People competition I was an apathetic citizen. I had the attitude that I couldn't affect government, but I learned that an individual can affect the government."*

MELISSA MURLESS, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, NEW MEXICO

- *"Many of my students had not believed it possible to be thinkers of constitutional ideas and molders of our government. They surprised themselves."*

CHRIS CHIANG, WE THE PEOPLE TEACHER AND ALUMNUS, CALIFORNIA

- *"The We the People curriculum has given students the background to discuss issues intelligently. The congressional hearing format has given them the confidence to ask questions and express their own ideas. I have never seen a more effective method of teaching, learning, and retaining subject material as this program provides."*

LINDA MAY JONES, TEACHER, ALABAMA

For more information about Center for Civic Education research, contact Suzanne Soule, Director of Research and Evaluation, soule@civiced.org or 800-350-4223.

