

We the People... the Citizen and the Constitution *Simulated hearings on the U.S. Constitution*

MINNESOTA WE THE PEOPLE COMPETITION AND SHOWCASE

December 13, 2016

9:00 am – 1:30 pm (approximate)

Minnesota Judicial Center (across street from State Capitol)

St. Paul, Minnesota

The culminating activity for the **Minnesota We the People** program is a simulated congressional hearing. The students, working in cooperative teams, prepare and present statements to a judging panel of community representatives who act as congressional committee members. Students then answer questions posed by the committee members. The format provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of our government and the rights and responsibility of citizens.

Your students will be participating in their hearings for only a short period of time and will have time for other activities in the State Capitol Complex. The State Capitol is undergoing major renovation and much of it might still be off limits to the students. But, although the legislature will not be in session, many legislators might be available to meet with your students. We will try to help you make arrangements to make the experience meaningful!

At the conclusion of the day, top scoring unit awards will be presented, location to be announced.

Two ways to participate:

Your students may participate as Constitutional Scholars presenting on all six units, competing to apply to represent Minnesota in the National We the People Competition, or as Constitutional Fellows, presenting one to five units.

Constitutional Scholars

The students in your class study all six units. They divide into six teams with each team preparing answers for both questions from one of the six units. During the competition, students will be asked by the judges to respond to only one of the unit questions. Constitutional Scholars are eligible for Unit Awards.

Constitutional Fellows

Students study one to five units. They study some but not all of the content and will show what they know by dividing into teams, answering questions from as many units as desired. You and your students select the units. In addition, as teacher, you may select one of the two questions from each unit. This limits the amount of time students will need to prepare and makes it possible for students to participate when the course curriculum does not include all content of the competition questions. Constitutional Fellows preparing for both unit questions will be eligible for Unit Awards. Constitutional Fellows choosing to prepare for only one of the two unit questions will not be eligible for Unit Awards.

We the People Hearing Procedure

Four-minute opening statement

Students answer one of the two unit questions (including the sub questions). This statement is prepared in advance, often written on note cards. The judges select the question they will ask unless students are participating as Constitutional Fellows and have chosen to answer only one of the unit questions.

Six-minute follow-up questions

Students answer additional judges' questions related to their opening statement. Students may not use notes for this part.

Feedback and Evaluation

Judges share comments with students and complete written evaluation forms for each team. Teams will receive numerical scores.

Schedule of Events

Times will be assigned first come, first served, with consideration given to teacher preference when possible. This provides less down time and more time for your class to participate as a group in other activities. Students will receive complimentary lunch vouchers for the Cafeteria in the Minnesota Transportation Building, a short walk from the Judicial Center.

Registration/Getting Help

To register your class for this event, complete the Online Registration Form. To register or for more information, contact Jennifer Bloom at the Learning Law and Democracy Foundation (jbloom@teachingcivics.org). Additional information is available at www.teachingcivics.org.