



INDIANA BAR  
FOUNDATION



*We the People*

## Simulated Congressional Hearing Rules of Competition

*We the People*: “The Citizen and the Constitution” is intended for all students. Schools with classes competing in the *We the People* simulated congressional hearings must comply with the following Rules of Competition:

1. Teachers must provide a copy of their official class roster, signed by their school principal or other appropriate school administrator, as a confirmation that the class meets the Rules of Competition listed below.
2. The Center for Civic Education (Center) and the Indiana Bar Foundation (Foundation) are 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:
  - a. be constituted according to the school’s normal policies and procedures for student admittance to a class;
  - b. be designated on the school’s master program (schedule of class offerings) as a required or elective class;
  - c. be in session during the regular hours of the school day;
  - d. have all enrollees entered in the teacher’s record book; and
  - e. provide graduation credits 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 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 competitive option at a particular grade level (elementary, middle, or high school) at regional, state, or national competitions will not be allowed to compete again at that same grade level in the oral presentation or questioning at any subsequent regional, state, or national competitions. However, students who are rostered in a class participating in the competition and who have previously competed may attend hearings as teaching assistants or spectators. Students who have participated in elementary 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 choose, or re-administer the Center test and remedy weaknesses until a desired score is attained.

6. 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.
7. When a class has fewer than eighteen 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. *See below:*

<b>Number of students in the class</b>	<b>Number of different students participating in two groups</b>
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 (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 Indiana *We the People* State Coordinator and the National Program Director. 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 his or her control, verification by the school’s principal must be sent to the Indiana *We the People* State Coordinator and the National Program Director. No class with fewer than nine students will be eligible to compete.
9. Two classes may be combined in order to participate in the competition, if the total number of students in the combined class does not exceed 35 students. The combining of two classes must have the approval of both the particular Regional Coordinator(s) and the Indiana *We the People* 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.