

Dear Teacher,

My name is David Richmond and I am the State Coordinator for We the People programs from California. I got a message from our national coordinator that you had questions about WTP and AP Gov. Before I took this position I was a Government Teacher for 23 years. For 16 of those years I used the We the People curriculum and participated in the competitive program. I can personally testify to the fact that kids who are immersed into the WTP program can and will do well on the AP test. Now, I never personally taught an AP program, but once we were finished with the WTP competitive program, I would always have around 50% of my students wishing to take the AP test. Our passing rates were consistently over 80%. Granted, most students could get a 3 or 4 without any extra prep...if they were shooting for a 5, I told them that we would have to do some extra prep after school.

Beyond my personal experience I can also let you know that in the state of California, our top 6 teams who participate in the CA WTP program are either AP Gov classes or teachers who encourage their students to take the AP test. Some have written alignments of their AP coursework with WTP. If you want, I can put in touch with these teachers.

Although I understand the importance of AP in our current educational environment, I personally believe that my students walked away from HS with a much richer and deeper understanding of our constitutional system and history because of their participation in the WTP program. More importantly, evidence shows that they are much more likely to be active participants in our political system....i.e...the experience of WTP is transcending beyond a test.

Hope that helps...

Don't hesitate to ask other questions if you need.

David Richmond  
State Coordinator, CA We the People Programs