NATIONAL INVITATIONAL RULES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

The We the People National Invitational is intended for all seventh- and eighth-grade students. The Center for Civic Education is committed to encouraging the widest possible participation from a broad range of students. Whether you elect to compete or showcase, We the People National Invitational classes must comply with the following rules. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Robert Leming or Erin Smith.

School-based Classes
For purposes of the National Invitational a “class” must:

- be constituted according to the school’s policies and procedures for student admittance to a class;
- be designated on the school’s master schedule as a required or elective class;
- be in session during the regular hours of the school day;
- complete an expected minimum of thirty-six hours of instruction and hearing preparation;
- enroll a suggested minimum of twelve students to be eligible to participate in the National Invitational;
- enter all enrollees in an official class roster signed by the principal;
- provide credit to students for satisfactory course completion; and
- participate in a school and/or district- or state-level simulated congressional hearing prior to participating in the National Invitational.

Community-based and After-school Classes
For the purposes of the National Invitational a “class” must

- be approved by a sponsoring organization or school and the Center for Civic Education;
- be taught by a teacher/facilitator designated by the sponsoring organization or school;
- complete an expected minimum of thirty-six hours of instruction and hearing preparation;
- enroll a suggested minimum of twelve students to be eligible to participate in the National Invitational;
- enter all enrollees in an official class roster signed by the sponsoring organization or school administrator; and
- participate in a local and/or state-level simulated congressional hearing prior to participating in the National Finals.

Teachers/Facilitators
For the purposes of the National Invitational a teacher/facilitator must agree to:

- teach all six units of the We the People textbook to the entire class;
- divide the class into six groups with each group responsible for its assigned unit;
- ensure that each group has a minimum of three members and all groups are sized as equally as possible;
- provide the Center for Civic Education a copy of the official class roster, which includes the unit assignment for each student; and
- combine two classes only if one of the classes has fewer than eighteen students and the total number of students in the combined class does not exceed thirty-six students. The combining of two classes must have the approval of Robert S. Leming, director of the We the People Programs (leming@civiced.org or 800-350-4223).