



## We the People THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

### 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](mailto:leming@civiced.org) or 800-350-4223).