



Arizona Foundation for  
**LEGAL SERVICES  
& EDUCATION**  
THE ARIZONA BAR FOUNDATION



**ARIZONA  
WE THE PEOPLE...THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION  
RULES OF COMPETITION**

The Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education, the Center for Civic Education and the Arizona Supreme Court are the official sponsors of the We the People Program and the High School Competition. The program is made possible through the volunteer efforts of teachers who serve as congressional district coordinators, and members of the community who preside over the high school simulated hearing. Funding is provided by U.S. Department of Education by an act of Congress and the Arizona Supreme Court.

The program is available for grades 4-12 and any public, private or charter school class may participate. The high school competition is limited to students in grades 9-12. In the interest of ensuring fairness and promoting uniformity, the High School Competition shall be governed by the following set of rules:

**I. Class Eligibility**

1. High school classes and extracurricular/after school clubs comprised of students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete in the high school competition.
2. All students in the class must take a written test provided by the sponsor. Students may use no notes or other materials while taking the test. Class score on the test of the History and Principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights must average 70% or above. A class may repeat the test if the cumulative score falls below 70% in order to strengthen scores to be eligible to compete.
3. Students who have previously participated at any level of competition are not eligible to compete in any subsequent year's competition at any level.

**II. Class Composition**

1. For purposes of the competition, a competing class must be comprised of students enrolled in the class. The teacher, coach or any other individual in an official capacity working with the competing class is considered part of the class composition. Sanctions (against an individual or the class as a whole) may be imposed when the actions of any team member are deemed improper by the appropriate tournament coordinator. Sanctions may range from point deduction to disqualification and are the sole discretion of the proper tournament coordinator.
  - a. A high school may send more than one class to compete at the district

level competition.

- b. Each class must be divided into six groups. Each group must have at least three students. The number of students in each group should be equal, if possible.
- c. No student may be in more than one group unless there are not enough students in the class to have six three-member groups.
- d. When a class has fewer than 18 students, teachers may allow some students to participate in two groups, in order to meet the criteria for composition, 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. No class with fewer than nine students will be eligible to compete.

<b>Number of students in 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

- e. Two classes may be combined in order to compete, if the total number of students in the combined class does not exceed 36 students. Combining two classes must have prior approval of the district and state coordinator.

### **III. District and State Level Competitions**

- 1. All hearing questions are created by the national sponsor and issued to each participating class from the state sponsor, the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education.
  - a. Students who compete must arrive on time and be prepared to compete by the first round of competition. Classes arriving after the beginning of the first round will be disqualified from competing.
  - b. Each school shall have its teacher present at all times at the Competition. Each class shall participate in all competition-related events, such as assemblies and demonstrations.

- c. If a teacher brings more than one class to a competition, there must be an adult assigned to each class brought that will supervise the class during the entire competition.
- d. Competition units are 10 minutes in length:
  - 4 Minutes- Prepared Testimony
  - 6 Minutes- Follow-up Questions
 If the 4 minutes are not utilized during the opening testimony phase, the remaining time shall be added to lengthen the follow-up questioning period. Each class member is expected to adhere to any requests made by judges concerning time.
- d. Notes (no larger than 8 1/2 by 11) may be used during the prepared testimony only. No notes or textbooks may be used during the follow-up questioning portion of the unit.
- e. Under no circumstance may a student, teacher, coach, parent or guest enter or sit in on any other hearing during the competition other than the class with which they are associated. Any class violating this policy will be immediately disqualified from competing.
- f. All classes are assigned to a hearing room for the duration of the competition. Once a hearing is in progress, no one (teachers, students, and guests of class) may leave the hearing room with the exception of staff or sponsors.
- g. At the start of each unit, students must introduce themselves to the judges and state which unit they have prepared.
- h. Every student on the unit is required to participate in all phases of the hearing. This means that each student shall have a role in the four-minute opening testimony. Most students should respond to follow-up questions.
- i. There shall be no communication between teachers and judges during a hearing.
- j. There shall be no communication between teachers and students while students are testifying. Testifying students may communicate amongst themselves.
- k. Usual rules of hearing room decorum apply to all participants. Appropriate dress is required.
- l. The State Competition will consist of six rounds. There will be 10 classes invited to the State Competition. The number of invitations extended to each region is the result of factoring the percentage of teams appearing at that district's competition to the statewide number of participating teams. For example, if District I has 5 classes in its District Competition, and a

total of 32 teams are entered statewide, District I would receive  $5/32 \times 10$  available spots, or 2 invitations to the State Competition. In this way, even small district are assured of at least one berth in the State Competition.

- m. The Foundation shall have full discretion in determining which teams are to be invited to the State competition to the extent there is a tie between regions based upon the above mathematical formula. In determining how to break the tie, the Foundation shall consider the overall point total at the District Competition.
- n. The class that earns a berth in the State Competition must consist of the same students who participated in the District Competition. If a student comes into a class after the District Competition and before the State Competition he or she will not be eligible to compete at State.

#### **IV. Dispute Resolution**

In the event of a protest, conflict, or dispute during the course of the competition, the final arbitration shall be the responsibility of the Foundation subject to the rules of competition and the policies of the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education.