



## We the People THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

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### SCORING GUIDE – WE THE PEOPLE SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

<b>1. Opening Statement</b> (These criteria should only apply to the opening statement.)	<b>Meets Expectations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The opening statement addressed all elements of the question.</li> <li>• All students participated in the presentation of the opening statement.</li> <li>• Students have taken a well-organized and logical approach to their statement, using appropriate and accurate references to the Constitution, scholarly sources, relevant cases, legal opinions, historical documents, and other materials to substantiate their arguments.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Evidence</b> (These criteria should apply to the follow-up portion of the hearings.)	<b>Meets Expectations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students accurately referenced constitutional text, principles, and other relevant primary and secondary sources to support their arguments.</li> <li>• Students have referenced historical events or influential figures to demonstrate a contextual understanding of the question.</li> <li>• Students have provided historical or current-day examples or case studies that illustrate the real-world impact of the Constitution or constitutional principles.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Analysis/Understanding</b> (These criteria should apply to the follow-up portion of the hearings.)	<b>Meets Expectations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students have accurately referenced key judicial decisions, amendments, historical context, or societal movements and have described their impact on the Constitution's meaning and application.</li> <li>• Students have recognized multiple perspectives on constitutional issues, including differing interpretations, dissenting opinions, and alternative arguments by scholars, jurists, or other stakeholders.</li> <li>• Students have identified the potential consequences of various interpretations of governing documents on society, policy, and individual rights.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Application</b> (These criteria should apply to the follow-up portion of the hearings.)	<b>Meets Expectations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students have accurately addressed how a constitutional issue is currently assessed, including the legal framework, court interpretations, public policies, and prevailing arguments.</li> <li>• Students analyzed how constitutional provisions and principles can be applied to resolve real-world situations, policies, debates, or contemporary issues.</li> <li>• Students have demonstrated familiarity with constitutional principles and frameworks from other countries or historical time periods, using these comparative perspectives to enrich their analysis.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Discussion</b> (These criteria should apply to the follow-up portion of the hearings.)	<b>Meets Expectations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The discussion reflected a balanced level of intellectual engagement, with most students actively participating, generating thoughtful insights, and contributing to a meaningful exchange of ideas.</li> <li>• In their discussion, students provided logical and well-supported reasoning for their positions, using relevant evidence, constitutional principles, and legal precedents to support their claims.</li> <li>• Students connected their follow-up discussion to their opening statement, further elaborating on the ideas and arguments presented in their initial remarks.</li> </ul>