



## We the People THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

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### **COMPETITION GUIDE**

#### **I. Prepared Statement-** four minute speech (You will be able to use note cards)

- Begin this section by introducing yourselves to the judges, possibly sharing a personal fact or anything else you wish, within reason. (This can help break the ice) Then sit using good posture.
- All students take part in the opening statement.
- Speeches will be well rehearsed. Use note cards as a safety blanket. Proper eye contact with the judges is helpful and makes the group appear more confident and prepared.
- Voices should be loud and clear. (Try to avoid mumbling) Speeches should also be presented at a well rehearsed pace. (3 ½ to 3 ¾ minute pace.)
- Proper dress is strongly encouraged.



#### **II. Follow up Presentation-** six minutes of follow up questions. (Put all note cards away at this time)

- Carefully listen to the question asked. If you do not understand the question, simply ask the judges to re-phrase it.
- Be prepared to both support and defend your responses.
- Most of the time the question will deal directly with the topic of your speech, but there is a possibility it may not. Be prepared for any questions that deal with other aspects of your unit.
- Also be prepared for any questions that may relate to a **current events issue** that relates to your topic. (Connections made on your own are also very much encouraged – helps team score!)
- Try to reference the **Constitution and/or Supreme Court Cases** to support your ideas/ answers.
- **Every** member of the group must respond during the follow up session. Try to allow an equal number of responses from each member. (Avoid having any one group member “dominate” the discussion)
- Opinion questions will be asked. It is O.K. (and often beneficial) to express opinions that may contradict or oppose the views of the other members of your group, as long as they are justified.
- If you agree with a colleague, you may want to say so, but be sure to **add your own insights** to the answer. (Don’t be a parrot!)

**GOOD LUCK!!!**