



# We the People 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)

### *Tips and Techniques for Follow-Up Questions*

- *Listen carefully* to the question asked. If you do not understand the question, simply ask the judges to re-phrase it.
- *Link responses* directly to the questions asked. Also be prepared to *both support and defend* your responses.
- Be prepared for any questions that deal with *other aspects of your unit* that may seem unrelated to your prepared statement.
- *The 3 C's*
  - 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 **Court Cases** to support your ideas/ answers to the questions as well.
- *Rotate speakers* and make sure each member of the group responds 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!)
- *Sit correctly* (look alert, do not slouch, position legs in a professional manner, pay attention to upper body and hands) and *make eye contact* with judges, especially when you are speaking.
- *Speak clearly, avoid clutter words* (um, you-know, like), and try to *limit distracting movements* (swaying, touching face, grooming hair).
- *Slow down and relax!* Gather your thoughts first and speak clearly and slowly.

\*\*\* Keep in mind, we are only as strong as our weakest link. If all group members work hard and are prepared, our team is guaranteed success!