



We the People Training Program

SUMMER INSTITUTE DRAFT AGENDA

JUNE 29–JULY 9, 2020

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020

Available

We the People Pre-Test

Please complete this prior to our first session on June 29.

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020

9:00–9:40 a.m.

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview

- *Emily Voss & Jen Howell, Virginia Civics*

Ice Breaker/Get-to-Know-You Activity—Mentor Teachers

- *Dennis Borgerding*
- *Amanda Kropp*
- *Anna Carlton*
- *Rob Peck*

9:40–9:50 a.m.

A Brief Overview of the We the People Curriculum

What does this curriculum cover?

How is the curriculum organized?

9:50–10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00–11:00 a.m.

Natural Rights and the American Founding

What did the Founders mean by “equality”?

What are natural rights?

- *Dr. Lester Brooks, Anne Arundel Community College*
- *Carl Snowden, Civil Rights Activist*

Readings to be Addressed:

- The Virginia Bill of Rights
 - The Declaration of Independence
 - The United States Bill of Rights
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TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2020

9:00–9:50 a.m. **Getting to Know the We the People Curriculum**

9:50–10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:00–11:00 a.m. **Introduction to Actively Learn Platform**

Homework: Please spend some time exploring the Actively Learn platform. Make a note of your questions. We will discuss them during Thursday's session.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

9:00–9:50 a.m. **Rights during the Civil War and Reconstruction**

How revolutionary was the Civil War and Reconstruction to our constitutional understanding of equality and rights?

- **Lester Brooks and Carl Snowden**

Readings to be Addressed:

- 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments (1865–1870)
- Civil Rights Act of 1866
- Civil Rights Cases (1883)
- *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
- *U.S. vs. Reese* (1876)
- *Smith vs. Allwright* (1944)

9:50–10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:00–11:00 a.m. **What is Citizenship?**

What is a citizen?

What were the classical conceptions of citizenship?

How have views of citizenship changed since the Founding era?

Has national citizenship become less important in the era of globalization?

How is citizenship connected to civil rights?

- **Lester Brooks and Carl Snowden**

Optional: Wind Down Wednesday Happy Hour—5:00pm!

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020

9:00–9:30 a.m. **WtP Instruction Discussion**

Lesson Demonstration/Discussion based on Wednesday's content

9:30–10:00 a.m. **Actively Learn Q&A and Troubleshooting**

10:00–10:30 a.m. **Assessment Options**

10:30–11:00 a.m. **Introduction to the Simulated Congressional Hearing**
Hearing assignments and overview
Meet your mentor team

Mentors may hold “office hours” for their teams to meet separately.

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020

9:00–9:45 a.m. **Gender and Sexual Orientation-Based Civil Rights**
What, if anything does the U.S. Constitution say, explicitly or implicitly, about gender?
Did the 13th, 14th, or 15th Amendments change the rights of women?
Why is the ERA’s future uncertain?
Does the idea of constitutional sex equality speak to sexual orientation?

- **Lester Brooks and Carl Snowden**

Readings to be Addressed:

- Abigail Adams’ Letter
- Declaration of Sentiments (1848)
- *Minor v. Happersett* (1875)
- Equal Rights Amendment
- *Romer v. Evan* (1992)
- *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003)
- *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015)

9:45–9:50 a.m. **Break**

9:50–11:00 a.m. **Black Civil Rights**
What tactics of the Civil Rights Movement were most effective?
Why did it take 90 years to enforce the 15th Amendment?

- **Lester Brooks and Carl Snowden**

Readings to be Addressed:

- “Give Us the Ballot” (MLK, 1957)
 - “What’s in Your Hands” (Adam Clayton Powell, 1964)
 - “The Ballot or the Bullet” (Malcolm X, 1964)
 - 1984 Democratic National Convention Address (Jesse Jackson, 1984)
 - 2008 Philadelphia Speech (Barack Obama, 2008)
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TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020

- 9:00–9:30 a.m. **WtP Instruction Discussion**
Lesson Demonstration/Discussion based on Monday’s content
- 9:30–11:00 a.m. **Simulated Congressional Hearing “How-To”**
How to use it...
How to grade it...
How to set up teams...
How to do a virtual session...
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020

- 9:00–9:50 a.m. **Challenges to the Constitution: War and Civil Liberties**
How should we balance national security and civil liberties in times of crisis?
How has this balance been struck historically?
Did the internment of Japanese-Americans violate the Constitution?
What current challenges exist in the second decade of the 21st century?

- **Lester Brooks and Carl Snowden**

Readings to be Addressed:

- *Korematsu v. U.S. (1944)*

- 9:50–10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:00–11:00 a.m. **Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties**

- **Lester Brooks and Carl Snowden**

Optional: Wind Down Wednesday Happy Hour—5:00pm!

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020

- 9:00–10:00 a.m. **We the People Simulated Congressional Hearings**
- 10:15–10:45 a.m. **Hearing Experience Debrief and Additional Resources**
- 10:45–11:00 a.m. **Next Steps and Evaluations**