

Constitutional Process Simulation

Overview: The class will select an at least eight, or more, issues currently being debated in the AZ Legislature at: <http://www.azleg.gov/Bills.asp>
From those chosen the class will meet as legislative committees, the AZ Senate, the Governor and the AZ Supreme Court. Throughout the process the class will debate the issues ultimately passing or rejecting the issues.

Process:

Session 1 – no more than one hour

1. Class chooses eight or more issues and actual bills in the AZ Senate or House.
2. Bills are printed and distributed to the learning teams.
3. Each learning team is assigned bills, but each team will have different bills.
4. Class reviews the basic topics for each bill
5. Teams read bill and discuss
6. Individuals take a position on the bills held by his/her team.
7. Bills are mixed and reassigned to the committees
8. Committees call experts and lobbyists to testify on the bills
9. Team decides on any changes to the bill needed.
Committee may:
 - kill the bill
 - pass it as amended
 - pass it unchanged
10. The committee votes on which of the actions in #7 to take.
11. Team votes on a representative to the Senate
12. Team votes for two representatives to the House (if number of students permits).
13. Team records a proper constitutional citation from both AZ and U.S. Constitutional for the process and for the bill.

Sessions 2 and 3 – 30 minutes each

1. Committee will forward the bill if passed to the President of the Senate (the teacher).
2. Senate debates and votes on the bills
3. Those bills passed the Senate are sent to the House
4. House convenes and debates and votes on the bills
5. Each student is required to speak on at least one bill and make at least one constitutional reference (to U.S. or AZ Constitutions)
6. No more than 30 minutes of debate per house will be scheduled per session to debate all bills.
7. Bills passed by both are sent to the governor
8. Class votes the teacher as governor
9. Team records a proper constitutional citation from both AZ and U.S. Constitutions for the process and for the bill.

Session 4 – 30 minutes

1. The governor vetoes or signs the bills based on constitutional , political or personal considerations.
2. The House and Senate quickly reconvene for an override vote.
3. The governor appoints 5 AZ Supreme Court justices
4. The justices are confirmed or rejected by the Senate.
5. One or two of the bill passed are appealed to the AZ Supreme Court
6. Teams are assigned as attorneys to each side of the challenged law, plaintiff or defendant.
7. The team prepares a brief on the case assigned.
8. Team records a proper constitutional citation from both AZ and U.S. Constitutions for the process and for the bill.

Session 5 - 30 minutes

1. One or more of the cases are argued before the Supreme Court.
2. At least one constitutional reference must be made by the attorneys.
3. Each justice casts a vote for plaintiff or defendant and explains his/her vote based on a constitutional reason
4. Team records a proper constitutional citation from both AZ and U.S. Constitutions for the process and for the bill.
5. Activity record handout is completed and tuned in.

Constitutional Process Record Sheet

Name:

Team:

1. List the principles of the US Constitution
2. List the articles of the U.S. Constitution
3. List the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendments

Session 1

On a separate sheet of paper, attached to this form:

1. List and/or identify the specific Articles, sections and clauses that apply to this session's activities
2. List and briefly explain the constitutional **principles** that apply to tonight's session.
3. List and briefly explain the constitutional **rights** that apply to tonight's session (if any).
4. Identify the public policy being proposed by at least one bill, will it solve the problem?
5. Take a position on any one or more of the bill topics.

Session 2

On a separate sheet of paper, attached to this form:

1. List and/or identify the specific Articles, sections and clauses the apply to this session's activities
2. List and briefly explain the constitutional **principles** that apply to tonight's session.
3. List and briefly explain the constitutional **rights** that apply to tonight's session (if any).

Sessions 3 and 4

On a separate sheet of paper, attached to this form:

1. List and/or identify the specific Articles, sections and clauses the apply to this session's activities
2. List and briefly explain the constitutional **principles** that apply to tonight's session.
3. List and briefly explain the constitutional **rights** that apply to tonight's session (if any).

Session 5

On a separate sheet of paper, attached to this form:

1. List and/or identify the specific Articles, sections and clauses the apply to this session's activities
2. List and briefly explain the constitutional **principles** that apply to tonight's session.
3. List and briefly explain the constitutional **rights** that apply to tonight's session (if any).