



Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

Engaging Youth in Democracy

*Professional Development Institutes for
Elementary and Middle School Teachers
Summer 2007*



A MORE PERFECT UNION

Institute for 7th and 8th Grade Teachers
Administering the U.S. Constitution Test
August 14-15, 2007

Thinking Critically and Acting Responsibly

Institute for 2nd – 5th Grade
Teachers Featuring:
VOICE and Primary VOICE
(Violence-Prevention Outcomes in
Civic Education)
August 16, 2007



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Justice & Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice; Polk Bros. Foundation; and Walgreen Co.*

A MORE PERFECT UNION

Institute for 7th and 8th Teachers Who Administer the U.S. Constitution Test

August 14-15, 2007

Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw LLP

Chicago, Illinois

Program Description

A MORE PERFECT UNION is a professional development institute created for teachers who administer the **U.S. Constitution Test to their 7th or 8th grade students**. The materials provided at the institute will support teachers and students as they prepare for the Constitution Test and will deepen and reinforce students' knowledge of our system of government. The dynamic lessons and strategies will show students how the Constitution applies to their lives and help them gain the skills and attitudes necessary to become active and engaged citizens. Teachers who attend the institute will be partnered with an attorney who will visit their classroom and help conduct some of the lessons.

Featured Lessons

- **Examining the Declaration of Independence**—*Students learn about the Declaration and create a Public Service Announcement to demonstrate understanding.*
- **What Makes a Good President?**—*Students participate in a consensus-building activity on the qualities that make a good president and hold a mock press conference.*
- **Just the Facts: Judicial Branch and the Law**—*Through a peer-teaching activity, students learn about the federal court system and the rights of citizens.*
- **Participation: Voting Rights and the Constitution**—*Students learn about the expansion of voting rights and interview citizens on their voting history. Students will also have the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to increase the youth vote.*
- **Making Laws**—*Students take part in a simulated legislative hearing.*

Participants Receive

- Assistance obtaining a attorney partner who will visit their classroom and help implement lessons.
- Up to 16 contact hours for Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU's) for attending the summer institute and follow-up session and completing reflections.
- Attendance at the 2007 Illinois LRE Education Conference on November 2 for a follow-up seminar (registration fee will be reimbursed).

Application Procedure

- Complete the Applicant Information.
- Include Registration Fee of \$50 payable to the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago.
- Return the Application Packet with payment **ASAP, but no later than June 1, 2007** to:

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
407 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60605-1119

Thinking Critically and Acting Responsibly
Institute for 2nd – 5th Grade Teachers Featuring:
VOICE and Primary VOICE
(Violence-Prevention Outcomes in Civic Education)
August 16, 2007
Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw LLP
Chicago, Illinois

Program Description

VOICE incorporates conflict resolution, law-related education, and service learning to help students develop a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution and our system of government. Since 1996 **VOICE** has supplemented 4th and 5th grade social studies and reinforced reading and math skills. Using the **VOICE** framework, **Primary VOICE** was created for 2nd and 3rd grades, using literature in conjunction with interactive lessons.

The **VOICE** and **Primary VOICE** models involve teams of attorneys; field experiences; interactive lessons which emphasize critical thinking, effective communication, and peaceful resolution of conflict; and projects which contribute to the well-being of the school and highlight quality student work.

VOICE and **Primary VOICE** curriculum meets 13 of the Learning Standards of the Illinois State Board of Education.

Program Benefits

A two year independent evaluation of the **VOICE** program showed that participating students:

- learned more about the U.S. Constitution and government than non-participating students, and improved their standardized test scores,
- had a better understanding of how to help others solve problems, and had fewer problems with discipline and fighting.

Teachers participating in a **Primary VOICE** professional development project reported:

- lessons address Illinois State Learning Standards for both social studies and language arts.
- lessons create powerful experiences for students that enhance literacy skills including comprehension, oral and written communication, vocabulary.

Participant Benefits

- 1 CPDU per lesson for teachers who complete a "teacher reflection" provided by CRFC entitled "Teacher Reflections." (suggested 4 lessons)
- The opportunity to attend the Illinois LRE Education Conference on November 2 for a follow-up seminar.
- Up to 10 contact hours for Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU's) which includes the summer institute and follow-up session.

Application Procedure

- Complete the Applicant Information.
- Include Registration Fee of \$25 payable to the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago.
- Return the Application Packet with payment **ASAP, but no later than June 1, 2007.**

Applicant Information

All applications must be complete, with payment, in order to be considered. All applicants will be notified regarding acceptance by June 15, 2007 at which time fees are nonrefundable. Registration fees will be refunded to applicants who are not accepted to the program.

Name _____

School _____

School Address _____

School Telephone _____ School Fax _____

School Email _____

Home Address _____

Home Telephone _____ Home Email _____

I am applying for the following Institute(s):

_____ **A More Perfect Union, August 14-15, 2007** (\$50 Registration Fee)

_____ **Thinking Critically and Acting Responsibly, August 16, 2007** (\$25 Registration Fee)

1. How many social studies classes will you teach next year? _____ What grade(s)? _____
2. How often do you use (1 = not used; 2 = rarely; 3 = occasionally; 4 = frequently; 5 = daily):
_____ Discussion _____ Service Learning/Community Service
_____ Cooperative Learning _____ Outside Resource People/Volunteers
_____ Peer Mediation _____ Performance Assessment
3. Describe one opportunity you provide your students to think critically about a civic issue, experience democratic citizenship as a way of life, develop respect for and understanding of diverse opinions, or examine and respond to social problems. *(Complete on a separate sheet of paper; 300 words or less.)*

Complete and submit application and registration fee(s) by **June 1, 2007** to:

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
407 S. Dearborn St., Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60605
Phone: (312) 663-9057/Fax: (312) 663-4321