SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SPEECH QUESTIONS

WTP UNIT 1: What basic ideas about government did the founders have?
4.4 CQ1: Did our Founders believe “All men are created equal”?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the founding of the United States government and the purposes of government. As expert witnesses, you will be asked to testify on the following questions.

- According to the Founders, what are the basic purposes of government?
- How does the Declaration of Independence express these purposes?
- How did people use the Declaration of Independence to address slavery?
- Does our government still serve the purposes that the Framers intended?
SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SPEECH QUESTIONS

WTP UNIT 2: How did the framers write our Constitution?
4.4 CQ2: How do you build a “good” government?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the development of the United States Constitution and the conflicts and compromises of the Philadelphia Convention. As expert witnesses, you will be asked to testify on the following questions.

- What major conflicts required the Framers at the Philadelphia Convention to make compromises?

- Why was it so difficult for the Framers to reach agreement about how to resolve their conflicts?

- Was the group that assembled at the Philadelphia Convention a fair representation of the people? Why or why not?

- Did keeping the proceedings of the Philadelphia Convention secret help build a better government?
SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SPEECH QUESTIONS

WTP UNIT 3: How does the Constitution organize our government?
4.4 CQ3: What was so special about the Constitution?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine how power is divided within the United States government. As expert witnesses, you will be asked to testify on the following questions.

- How did the Framers use separation of powers and checks and balances to limit the powers of government?

- Give examples of checks and balances at work today.

- What is federalism and how does it limit the government’s power?

- What power(s) are citizens given by the Constitution and how can these serve as a check on government’s power?
SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SPEECH QUESTIONS

WTP UNIT 4: How does the Constitution protect our basic rights?

4.4 CQ3: What was so special about the Constitution?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the role of freedoms of citizens guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution. As expert witnesses, you will be asked to testify on the following questions.

• What is the Bill of Rights and what was the reason for including it after the Constitution was ratified?

• What is freedom of expression, and why is it important to our democracy?

• Are there times when freedom of expression should be limited? Why or why not? Give examples.

• If citizens think their rights are being violated, what can they do to defend their rights?
SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SPEECH QUESTIONS

WTP UNIT 5: What are the responsibilities of citizens?
4.4 CQ4: How has the country changed since the ratification of the Constitution?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens in the United States. As expert witnesses, you will be asked to testify on the following questions.

- How did our Constitution define citizenship in the 18th Century compared to today?
- What are the responsibilities of citizens in our democracy today?
- How does a responsible citizen promote the common good?
- In what ways can our country continue to expand rights to more people today?