



CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

EDUCATING TOMORROW'S CITIZENS

Preparing Your Students for CRF's *From the Courtroom to Classroom* Program

Congratulations! You have registered to participate in CRF's *From the Courtroom to the Classroom* program. This new program provides opportunities for your students to interact with judges and attorneys as they learn about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Here's how the program works...

- Two times during the school year, a judge and attorney team will come to your class and do a lesson with your students. Each lesson will begin with a PowerPoint presentation introducing a law-related concept: Free Expression, Due Process, or Equal Protection. After the PowerPoint presentation, your students will participate in a moot court activity that has them take the roles of attorneys and Supreme Court justices. They will hear and argue a real Supreme Court case that deals with the constitutional issues that were introduced in the PowerPoint presentation.

Prior to the First Visit...

- We ask that prior to the first visit you do **one** of the following to help prepare your students:
 - Option 1:** We have created a PowerPoint presentation that should take less than one class period and will introduce the students to some basic information about the law and the legal system, including the difference between trial and appellate courts. Please click on the following link:
http://www.crf-usa.org/c2c/t_download.htm
 - Option 2:** We have created a "student handbook" that you could pass out and review with your students prior to the first visit. We also created a little "bar exam," should you want to use it. Please click on the following link:
http://www.crf-usa.org/c2c/t_download.htm
 - Option 3:** Take a look at the content that the materials above cover and come up with your own way of ensuring your students are ready for the visits. Your students may already know a lot of the information covered.

Here's how you can help make this a great experience for you, your students, and your Judge/Attorney team:

- Try to be as flexible as possible in scheduling. The judge and attorneys are excited about the program, but will have to juggle a lot of calendars to find days and times when all three can come. The more options you can give them, the better. If you have a class period that can “spill over” into the next time block, that’s the one you should go for. Last year’s students wanted more time to work with the judges and attorneys during each session.
- Be sure your students are prepared by using the PowerPoint lesson, handbook, or your own activities/discussion.
- It is especially nice if you can send a student to the main office to greet the judge and attorneys the first time they come. It is extremely helpful to them to have a student take them to your classroom.
- It is very helpful if you have your students make nametags or desk placards with their names on them so that the guests can call them by name during the lessons.
- When the team is visiting, help with classroom management, dividing students into groups for the moot court, etc.
- Notes of thanks/appreciation to the judges and attorneys can be sent to Sylvia Andresantos at CRF, 601 S. Kingsley Drive, LA 90005. She’ll make sure the teams get them.

We love hearing feedback and input! After your classroom visit, please take a moment to fill in the on-line [Teacher Evaluation](#) and don’t hesitate to let us know how things are going:

david@crf-usa.org or sylvia@crf-usa.org

Thanks for your participation in this program. We hope you and your students enjoy and learn!

Laura Wesley, Keri Doggett, David De La Torre, and Sylvia Andresantos
CRF Staff