

# We the People

## Course # SS118W

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**Sign up if:** You will be a junior or senior and are interested in any of the following things:

Role of government  
Persuading others

Writing  
History

Philosophy  
Honors credit

**Overview of Government:** The course will begin with an introduction to the basic institutions and practices of the American government, including the rights and the responsibilities of an active and informed citizen. Towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, students will begin to become experts in a topic.

**Become an Expert:** The class will be divided into six groups, with each group becoming an expert in one of the following areas:

1. Philosophical and historical foundations of the American political system
2. How the Framers created the Constitution
3. How the Constitution has changed
4. How the Constitution has shaped American institutions and practices
5. What rights the Bill of Rights protects
6. Challenges facing American democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

**Simulated Congressional Hearing:** Each group will be presented with a set of questions related to their topic. Each group will research all facets of their questions and prepare a written response. During the simulated congressional hearing, students will present their prepared response and answer a series of follow-up questions.

**Credit:** Earn the ½ credit for Arizona/American Government required for graduation AND honors credit.

**We the People:** *We the People* is a national civics curriculum created by the Department of Education in 1987 and administered by the Center for Civic Education. The Center for Civic Education works with state agencies to sponsor district, state, and national competitions in the format of a simulated congressional hearing. Classes that win the hearings in their congressional district compete at the state hearings, and the winner from each state competes at the national hearings in Washington, D.C.

**Highland High School**

