

CENTER FOR THE CONSTITUTION
AT JAMES MADISON'S MONTPELIER

Agenda:

Friday, December 11, 2009:

3 – 5:30 p.m. Arrive
6 – 7 p.m. Dinner
7 – 7:30 p.m. Welcome and Agenda Overview

- Welcome to the Center for the Constitution
- Mission of the Center for the Constitution
- Agenda overview and logistics of the weekend

7:30 – 7:50 p.m. Introductions
7:50 – 8:30 p.m. Opening Activity

Themes: Liberty, Sovereignty, Order, Union, Justice, Power, Posterity
Essential Questions:

- What is the purpose of our Constitution?
- What basic ideas about government are included in the Preamble?

Saturday, December 12, 2009:

8 – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast
8:45 – 10:15 a.m. Lecture / Discussion I, Part 1: Origins of the Constitution
10:15 – 10:30 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. – Noon Lecture / Discussion I, Part 2: Origins of the Constitution

Themes Addressed: Liberty and Sovereignty
Essential Questions:

- What is a Constitution?
- What is a republican government?
- What is a constitutional government?
- What is a good government?

Noon – 12:45 p.m. Lunch
12:45 – 2:15 p.m. House Tour
2:15 – 2:30 p.m. Break
2:30 – 3 p.m. Breakout Discussions
3 – 4:30 p.m. Group Report / Discussion 2, Part 1: The Creation of the Constitution
4:30 – 4:45 p.m. Break

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4:45 – 6:15 p.m. Lecture / Discussion 2, Part 2: The Creation of the Constitution

Themes Addressed: Order, Justice, Power

Essential Questions:

- How was the government organized to prevent the abuse of power?
- What arguments surrounded the drafting and ratification of the Constitution?
- Why a Bill of Rights?

6:30 p.m. Dinner

Sunday, December 13, 2009:

8 – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast

8:45 – 10:45 a.m. Lecture / Discussion 3, Part 1: The Evolution of the Constitution and the Citizen

Themes Addressed: Union, Bill of Rights, Citizenship

Essential Questions:

- What are bills of rights and what kinds of rights does the United States Bill of Rights protect?
- What does it mean to be a citizen?
- Who is a citizen under the Constitution?
- Does the Constitution only protect the rights of citizens?

10:45 – 11 a.m. Break

11 – 11:30 a.m. Breakout Discussions

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Group Report / Discussion 3, Part 2: The Evolution of the Constitution and the Citizen

12:15 – 1 p.m. Lunch

1 – 2:30 p.m. Classroom Application: *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. Break

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. Lecture / Discussion 4: Constitutional Interpretation and Contemporary Issues

Themes Addressed: Posterity

Essential Questions:

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- In what ways has constitutional interpretation evolved over the past 220 years?
- Is the Constitution open to interpretation?

3:45 – 4 p.m. Evaluation and Wrap - Up