

**PORTFOLIO DESCRIPTION FOR CONTESTANTS IN
THE FREEDOM FESTIVAL'S TEACHER CONSTITUTION MONTH CONTEST
Deadline: OCTOBER 1ST**

General Description

Each year teachers at 4 levels (K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12) may submit a portfolio of evidence which shows their passion, performance and success at teaching the Constitution during Constitution Month in September. Entries are judged on a teacher's depth of insight in teaching, and other innovative ways to help their students learn to love the Constitution.

The 3 key areas of focus:

1. Constitutional Instruction – What did you teach?
2. Creativity and Innovation - How was your teaching creative?
3. Student Impact – How did your students benefit from your instruction? Practical applications of the U.S. Constitution. How well did the teacher help children understand the importance of the Constitution and how it affects our daily lives?

Preparation for the Portfolio

In order to prepare for the Portfolio, you will need to collect sample materials throughout Constitution Month. These may be papers, lesson plans, PowerPoint slides, samples of student work, photo of bulletin boards, evaluations, letters, technology applications, games, reenactments, etc.

Grading of the Portfolio: See attached Rubric

Content of Narratives

Your content should be personalized and focus on your level of teaching instruction, whether it be kindergarten or 12th grade. For example, if you are teaching elementary school, you might include an overview of how you incorporated the Constitution throughout the month but provide materials showing the level appropriate concepts presented and the approaches used to help students understand the concept through bulletin boards, conversation, storybooks, songs, or participatory activities. If you are teaching junior high or high school, you should include an overview of how you incorporated the Constitution throughout the month but at a higher level of engagement and cognition through reading, writing, role play, simulation, field trips, and examinations.

Here are some appropriate support materials you might include, which you must refer to specifically as appendices in your essays:

Constitutional Instruction

List of Topics addressed, discussed, or taught throughout the month such as Background of Founding Fathers, Preamble to the Constitution, First Amendment, Branches of Government, How a Bill Becomes a Law, etc.

Support Materials: overview, sample lesson plans, sample handouts, PowerPoint slides, posters, etc.

Creativity and Innovation

Submit art, literature, music, film, primary sources (if appropriate), or other creative materials or activities (beyond published materials) used to consolidate concepts

Support Materials: books, films, art projects, role play, simulation, games, experiential activities, interactional activities, field trips, teacher-designed materials, etc.

Student Impact

Support Materials: photos demonstrating student performance of some concept such as free speech; worksheet, test or project demonstrating student knowledge; student or parent appreciation letters; evidence of students' potential civic action or activity, etc.

Grading Rubric for Constitution Month Teaching Portfolio

Rubric	Strong (40)	Good (34)	Needs Improvement (28)	
Essay 1: Constitutional Instruction *list of topics *Description of sample plans, handouts, and other materials (40%)	Topics usually appropriate to level with very informative plans, handouts, and other materials.	Topics generally appropriate to level with informative plans, handouts, and other materials	Topics sometimes appropriate to level with less informative plans, handouts, and other materials	____/40
Rubric	Strong (20)	Good (17)	Needs Improvement (14)	
Essay 2: Creativity and Innovation *Creativity using art, music, film, literature, etc. *References to creative sources and interactional activities (20%)	Several activities include art, music, film, interaction, etc. Many activities are innovative and include original teacher input.	A few activities include art, music, film, interaction, etc. Some activities are innovative and include original teacher input.	Few activities include art, music, film, interaction, etc. Few activities are innovative and include original teacher input.	____/20
Rubric	Strong (30)	Good (26)	Needs Improvement (21)	
Essay 3: Student Impact *Specific students or classes mentioned *Description of evidence like photos, letters, exams, projects, etc. (30%)	Provides very good explanation and strong evidence of student learning	Provides good explanation and good evidence of student learning	Provides little or no explanation or evidence of student learning	____/30
Rubric	Strong (10)	Good (8)	Needs Improvement (6)	
English Expression: (10%)	Writing is free of errors in grammar and spelling or contains only minor errors that do not distract from readability in all three narratives.	Occasional grammar or spelling errors are present, but they cause little interruption to readability in all three narratives.	Frequent grammar or spelling errors distract from the writing and affect readability in one or more narratives.	____/10
TOTAL (100%)				____/100