

# A MORE PERFECT UNION

A Two-Day Summer Institute for 7<sup>th</sup> - and 8<sup>th</sup> - Grade  
Teachers Who Administer the U.S. Constitution Test



Enrich and enliven your teaching of the U.S. Constitution using the dynamic materials and strategies featured at this institute.

## *Application*

August 1-2, 2006  
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
Chicago, Illinois

*A program of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago*

*Supported by Kirkland & Ellis; Edward J. Lewis II Memorial Fund;  
Kapnick Family Fund of the Community Foundation of Collier County;  
Peoples Energy; and Walgreen Co.*



## Program Description

A **MORE PERFECT UNION** is a professional development institute created for teachers who administer the **U.S. Constitution Test to their 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students**. The materials provided at the institute will support teachers and students as they prepare for the Constitution test and will deepen and reinforce students' knowledge of our system of government. The dynamic lessons and strategies will show students how the Constitution applies to their lives and help them gain the skills and attitudes necessary to become active and engaged citizens. Teachers who attend the institute will be partnered with an attorney who will visit their classroom and help conduct some of the lessons.

### LESSONS PROVIDED AND DEMONSTRATED AT THE INSTITUTE WILL INCLUDE:

- **Examining the Declaration of Independence** – *Students learn about the Declaration and create a Public Service Announcement to demonstrate understanding.*
- **What Makes a Good President?** – *Students participate in a consensus-building activity on the qualities that make a good president and hold a mock press conference.*
- **Just the Facts: Judicial Branch and the Law** – *Through a peer-teaching activity, students learn about the federal court system and the rights of citizens.*
- **Participation: Voting Rights and the Constitution**- *Students learn about the expansion of voting rights and interview citizens on their voting history. Students will also have the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to increase the youth vote in 2004.*
- **Making Laws** - *Students take part in a simulated legislative hearing.*

## Participants Receive

- An attorney partner who will visit their classroom and help implement lessons.
- A \$150 stipend after the successful completion of the institute.
- 1 CPDU per lesson for teachers who complete “teacher reflections” provided by CRFC
- Attend the Illinois LRE Education Conference on November 3 for a follow-up seminar, registration fee will be reimbursed.
- Receive up to 16 contact hours for Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU's) for attending the summer institute and follow-up session and completing reflections.

## Application Procedure

- Complete the Applicant Information and Agreement Forms.
- Have the Application Agreement co-signed by your principal.
- Include Registration Fee of \$50 payable to the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago.
- Return the Application Packet with payment **ASAP, but no later than June 2, 2006** to:

Jessica Chethik  
Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago  
407 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60605-1119

# Applicant Information

*All applications must be complete, with payment, in order to be considered. A maximum of 24 participants will be accepted. All applicants will be notified regarding acceptance by the end of June 2, at which time fees are nonrefundable. Registration fees will be refunded to applicants who are not accepted to the program.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Email \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

1. How many social studies classes will you teach next year? \_\_\_\_\_ What grade(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How often do you use (1 = not used; 2 = rarely; 3 = occasionally; 4 = frequently; 5 = daily):

_____ Discussion	_____ Service Learning/Community Service
_____ Cooperative Learning	_____ Outside Resource People/Volunteers
_____ Peer Mediation	_____ Performance Assessment

3. Describe one opportunity you provide your students to think critically about a civic issue, experience democratic citizenship as a way of life, develop respect for and understanding of diverse opinions, or examine and respond to social problems. *(Complete on a separate sheet of paper; 300 words or less.)*

Complete and submit this application and your registration fee  
by June 2, 2006 to:

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago  
407 S. Dearborn St., Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60605  
Fax 312-663-4321  
Phone: 312-663-9057