

Shared Powers: Federalism in the 21st Century

2010 We the People Summer Institute
University of Denver, June 10 – 11, 2010

Institute Objectives:

As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Analyze constitutional issues involving the constitutional principle of federalism.
- Translate workshop content into meaningful learning experiences for their students through the *We the People* program.
- Work collaboratively with peers to develop new understandings of the U.S. Constitution.
- Provide one or more classes with a culminating hearing experience.

Thursday, June 10

- 8:00 Introductions, Welcome
Small group activity: Examine political cartoons on federalism and describe the connection between the theme of this institute and the cartoons.
- 8:30 *We the People* Simulated Congressional Hearing presentation by East High School.
Following the presentation, participants will have an opportunity to discuss the hearing experience and preparation with students and their panel coach.
- 9:00 "Toward a More Perfect Union: Origins and Evolution of American Federalism"
Lauri McNown, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado-Boulder
- Federalism is a uniquely American idea of shared powers and a fundamental principle of our constitutional system. The Framers of the Constitution developed this system partly as a practical political compromise between those who feared a too strong central government and those who worried about the lack of centrality in a system of strong states. Both the national and state governments are granted certain exclusive powers and share other powers with both levels directly acting on the citizens. Professor McNown's remarks will include the origins of federalism, landmark Supreme Court cases, and how federalism has evolved over time.
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Remarks from Attorney General John Suthers
Colorado's Attorney General represents and defends the interests of the people of Colorado and is chief legal counsel and advisor to the state government.
- 11:30 Lunch
- 12:30 Concurrent Sessions
(1) New WTP Teachers: Introducing the WTP textbook
Debbie Jensen, Clear Creek High School, and Chris Elnicki, Social Studies

Coordinator, Cherry Creek Schools

(2) Veteran WTP Teachers: Demonstration Lesson, “What Level of Government?”
Edna Sutton, Denver School of Science and Technology, and Suzanne deLemos,
Mountain Range High School

1:15 Case Studies about Federalism: Structured Academic Controversy (SAC)

Using new materials specifically developed for the 2010 Colorado WTP program, teachers will participate in a structured academic controversy (SAC) on the constitutional issues involved in the controversial immigration law passed in April in Arizona. SAC is a small group discussion model that helps students gain a deeper understanding of an issue, find common ground, and make decisions based on evidence and logic.

Laurel Singleton, Staff Associate, CELD, Victoria Bull, Northglenn High School, and Edna Sutton, Denver School of Science and Technology.

2:45 Meetings in WTP Mentor Groups

3:30 Credit and course registration; Loyal Darr, WTP Coordinator, Congressional District #1

Friday, July 11

8:00 Recipe for Good Hearings. Logistics for Hearings.

8:30 “State's Rights in Theory and Practice”
Seth Masket, Department of Political Science University of Denver

Americans have long believed in a system of federalism, whereby the states have some governing responsibilities and the federal government has others, but they have rarely agreed on where to draw the line. What exactly do we mean when we talk about state's rights? Do we believe that the states are truly better at handling some areas of public policy? Or do we simply favor the states when we don't like what the federal government is doing? Professor Masket will examine some modern examples of federalism serving as both a red herring in political debate and a useful tool for generating good public policy.

9:45 Break

10:00 Demonstration Lesson, “Federalism and the Courts”
Edna Sutton, Denver School of Science and Technology, and Suzanne deLemos,
Mountain Range High School

11:30 “Dateline Denver: State and Federal Tug of Wars”
Lunch and conversation with Fred Brown, long-time *Denver Post* political reporter

12:30 Mentor Groups

2:00 WTP Culminating Activity, Simulated Congressional Hearings

2:45 Debriefing the Hearings

3:15 Concurrent Sessions: Taking the Hearings to the Classroom
(1) Ninth-Grade and Showcase Teachers: Edna Sutton and Suzanne deLemos
(2) WTP Competitive Teachers: Victoria Bull, Debbie Jensen, and Loyal Darr
(3) Middle School Teachers: New from Justice O'Connor—icivics.org
Chris Elnicki, Cherry Creek Schools. **Room 310**

4:00 Certificates; Adjourn