

Simulated Congressional Hearing Scoring Rubric

In each category, award a whole-number score between 0 and 10.

Opening Statement	(These criteria should only apply to the opening statement.)		Score:
Opportunities for Growth	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The opening statement addressed all elements of the question. <input type="checkbox"/> All students participated in the presentation of the opening statement. <input type="checkbox"/> Students have taken a well-organized and logical approach to their statement, using appropriate and accurate references to the Constitution, scholarly sources, relevant cases, legal opinions, historical documents, and other materials to substantiate their arguments. 			
Evidence	(These criteria should apply to the follow-up portion of the hearings.)		Score:
Opportunities for Growth	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students accurately referenced constitutional text, principles, and other relevant primary and secondary sources to support their arguments. <input type="checkbox"/> Students have referenced historical events or influential figures to demonstrate a contextual understanding of the question. <input type="checkbox"/> Students have provided historical or current-day examples or case studies that illustrate the real-world impact of the Constitution or constitutional principles. 			
Analysis / Understanding	(These criteria should apply to the follow-up portion of the hearings.)		Score:
Opportunities for Growth	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students have accurately referenced key judicial decisions, amendments, historical context, or societal movements and have described their impact on the Constitution's meaning and application. <input type="checkbox"/> Students have recognized multiple perspectives on constitutional issues, including differing interpretations, dissenting opinions, and alternative arguments by scholars, jurists, or other stakeholders. <input type="checkbox"/> Students have identified the potential consequences of various interpretations of governing documents on society, policy, and individual rights. 			



Application	(These criteria should apply to the follow-up portion of the hearings.)	Score:
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Opportunities for Growth	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
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- Students have accurately addressed how a constitutional issue is currently assessed, including the legal framework, court interpretations, public policies, and prevailing arguments.
- Students analyzed how constitutional provisions and principles can be applied to resolve real-world situations, policies, debates, or contemporary issues.
- Students have demonstrated familiarity with constitutional principles and frameworks from other countries or historical time periods, using these comparative perspectives to enrich their analysis.

Discussion	(These criteria should apply to the follow-up portion of the hearings.)	Score:
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Opportunities for Growth	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
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- The discussion reflected a balanced level of intellectual engagement, with most students actively participating, generating thoughtful insights, and contributing to a meaningful exchange of ideas.
- In their discussion, students provided logical and well-supported reasoning for their positions, using relevant evidence, constitutional principles, and legal precedents to support their claims.
- Students connected their follow-up discussion to their opening statement, further elaborating on the ideas and arguments presented in their initial remarks.

Total Score	(Sum of scores in all five categories)	Score:
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Space for Additional Notes Below