



**Goals for your Scholar Exchange on Constitutional Conversations and Civil Dialogue**

---

The goals for this session are for students to understand how to have difficult conversations about the Constitution, distinguish between political and constitutional questions and review seven different forms of constitutional interpretation, and learn some tips for engaging in civil dialogue.

Throughout the session, we will ask the students engagement questions, pause for conversation, and encourage discussion. Those factors of the session are just as vital to its success as the sharing of content.

**Format of the session**

<p><b>Abbreviated Overview of Structural Constitution</b></p>	<p><b>Thinking like a Constitutional Lawyer</b>  <i>Political Questions (What the government SHOULD do)</i>                  vs.  <i>Constitutional Questions (What the government CAN do)</i></p>
<p><b>Seven forms of Constitutional Interpretation</b>  <i>Text History</i>  <i>Structure Doctrine</i>  <i>Prudence Tradition Morality</i></p>	<p><b>Tips for Engaging in Civil Dialogue</b>  <i>New Jersey v. TLO</i>  <i>Safford Unified School District v. Redding</i></p>

There are conversation breaks between each section, which includes time for engagement questions from the moderator, student questions, and discussion.

**How to prepare**

---

**Share the handout**

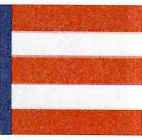
This is a great way for students to get an idea of what to expect from the session. Students can work on the **warm-up activity** prior to the session, as well, as a way to explore the topic beforehand.

**If you are using this session as an introduction to your Constitutional Conversations**

Read the text of the Constitution with your students and ask them to identify questions about the text itself. Brainstorm some questions beyond the text, too, identifying the differences between political questions and constitutional questions. Discuss what words like argument, discussion, and dialogue mean to your students.

**If you are using this session as a review of your Constitutional Conversations**

Read the text of the Constitution and ask students how they would define the significant debates that they have either experienced or noticed. Ask them to consider the differences between political and constitutional questions and how knowing the difference might help when having a dialogue. What unresolved questions do



your students have about the Constitution and how do they plan to approach their next constitutional conversation?

<p>Thinking like a Constitutional Lawyer          Analyze the Constitution with the government and the people.</p>	<p>Appreciated through its structure          Constitution</p>
<p>The for engaging in Civil Dialogue          Newspaper 10          Reform United States Court &amp; Justice</p>	<p>Seven forms of Constitutional          Interpretation          The Court          Federal Judges &amp; Justices</p>

When reading a line from the Constitution, students should be asked to identify the main idea and to explain how it relates to the Constitution's purpose.

How to Prepare

Students should be given time to read the Constitution and to discuss it with their classmates. They should be encouraged to ask questions and to share their own thoughts. The teacher should facilitate the discussion and ensure that all students have a chance to speak. The teacher should also provide feedback and support to the students.

**INTERACTIVE**  
**CONSTITUTION**

**Scholar Exchange Session Handout**

---

**Before the Scholar Exchange:**

What is one question you have about this topic? What are you most curious about?

**During the Scholar Exchange:**

What is one thing that surprised you regarding the constitutional foundations of this topic?
What is one thing that surprised you regarding the historical debates, questions, or cases involving this topic?
What is one thing that surprised you about the modern interpretations regarding this topic?

Write down one question you have for the scholar or one interesting point made by one of your peers.

**After the Scholar Exchange:**

What is something you are interested to learn more about regarding this topic?

**Notes:**

During your Scholar Exchange, the scholar will ask you questions and provide you the opportunity to engage with your classmates before you answer. Use the space below for notes, ideas, and answers during your collaboration.