

PRESENTER CHEAT SHEET (ALL GRADES)

LAWYERS IN THE CLASSROOM

Constitution Day 2026

AGENDA

- **Welcome & who you are** (~3 min)
- **Why this year, why the Constitution** (~5 min)
- **Key takeaways for students** (~5 min)
- **The main event** – activity/discussion (~20 min)
- **Wrap-up, Q&A, Career Conversation** (~17 min)

Running short? Shorten the introductory framing or fold the career discussion directly into the Q&A.

Read-aloud (K–3)? Keep your intro and wrap-up short — protect time for reading (10–12 min) and discussion. For a 50-minute period it's tight; pick a shorter book and lean on the discussion.

GO-TO LINES

- “The Constitution is a set of promises our country made to everyone who lives here.”
- “The next 250 years are yours to lead.”
- “The law isn’t just for lawyers — it belongs to everyone in this room.”
- “We’re a work in progress. That’s not a flaw — it’s an invitation.”

THE CORE IDEAS — hit at least 2 concepts

- **The rule of law.** No one is above the law — not even the government. Same rules for everyone.
- **We the People.** Government’s power comes from the people. Students have a voice.
- **Rights and liberties.** The Constitution protects freedoms for everyone who lives here.
- **Equality and fairness.** Everyone is treated equally — a promise the country is still working to keep.
- **Checks and balances.** Power is divided so no one part can take over; courts decide independently.
- **Civic agency.** The Constitution can be changed. The next generation shapes it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BY GRADE

- Elementary (K–5): “What would recess be like with absolutely no rules? Who would it be hardest for?”
- Middle School (6–8): “What constitutional rights do you actually think you have here at school or online?” “Why do you think the Constitution splits power across three branches instead of trusting it all to one leader?”
- High School (9–12): “If you could draft and pass the 28th Amendment today, what would it be and why?” “Two judges can read the exact same sentence in the Constitution and reach opposite conclusions. Is that a flaw in the system — or is that the whole point?”
- After the activity (All Grades): “Was that outcome fair? What would you have argued or done differently?” “What’s one thing you’d make fairer?”

KEY FACTS TO ANCHOR ON – pick 2-3

- **The Constitution starts with ‘We the People’** — not ‘We the government.’ That’s intentional.
- **The Bill of Rights doesn’t give you rights** — it protects rights you already have.
- **Three branches, one purpose** — so no president, court, or Congress can run the whole show alone.
- **The Constitution has been amended 27 times.** That means it was never meant to be a final answer. You’re the ones to improve it next.
- **The Preamble lists six goals for this country.** We’re still working on all of them – it’s your turn to push those promises closer to reality. Speak up, vote and hold your leaders accountable.

Tips: Write your takeaways on the board. Students should leave the room holding onto these.

CONTACTS & LINKS

Offer your contact info [Your name, email]

Questions? lawyersintheclassroom@courts.wa.gov

www.courts.wa.gov/education/lawyers
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