

FINAL Congressional Hearings May 2021

Overview:

You will be working in groups of around 5 students, on a group project that will recreate a hearing held in the United States Congress. Working with your groups (“unit”) you will produce a **four-minute** oral testimony based on a set of questions. Your four-minute testimony must be typed, well written, and written collectively by the unit. In the testimony you will lay out a *historical foundation*, argue a *viewpoint*, consider the *counterargument*, and say why *your views* are more valid. On the day of your hearing your group will deliver the formal testimony, with each unit member speaking at least twice in the four-minute period. After the four-minute formal testimony, the judge (me) will ask the unit a series of follow-up questions for **six** minutes, based on your testimony. Your unit will respond to the questions offering personal opinion, historical information, and personal experiences to answer the questions asked by the judge. In total the entire hearing will last **ten** minutes with one to two minutes of quick feedback from the judge at the end.

Testimony Format:

The testimony is timed and must be no longer than 4:10 or shorter than 3:45. (This means you must practice numerous times to get the timing down!) Time begins once you begin your testimony. During the Zoom Final you will have your cameras off until you present (only those presenting will have their cameras on--meaning YOU MUST have your camera on during YOUR presentation). Each member of your unit will speak at least twice during the formal testimony. You will have your presentation on your screen but still be expected to make contact with your camera. Each testimony must begin with a quote or statistic and must reference the quote at the end of the testimony, too.

Written Testimony:

The written testimony is what you will be using for your formal presentation. The written testimony should be **625-650 words**. You must begin with a quote or statistic and then develop your answers using the main question and sub-questions as a guideline. You should write 10-12 “paragraphs,” allowing each person to have at least two speaking parts. You must include rich examples, personal experiences, and facts. Don’t be afraid to cite the Constitution, when appropriate. The written testimony is what you will be saying during the 4-minute formal part of the testimony.

Question and Answer Period:

During the six-minute question and answer period, the judge will take a more active role. For six minutes the judge will ask your unit follow-up questions based on the ideas you presented in your testimony and any unanswered ideas left from the main question or sub questions. Your unit must work as a *team* to answer these questions, with at least three people participating in each question. Each person must speak at least twice in this part of the hearing. You must use evidence to support your answers. *No notes* will be allowed during the question and answer period of the testimony--you CANNOT USE GOOGLE, etc. to look up answers.

Question Dissection (first step):

Each student will complete their own “Question Dissection” (not a group assignment—do by yourself). In this you will take your question and sub question and go through 5-steps preparing to write the group presentation. **This assignment is due at the end of today.** You will get feedback on the Question Dissection by Thursday and begin writing your rough draft as a group in class that day.

Due Dates:

- **Today** — Units chose question & Question Dissection
- **Monday 5/17**-- QD returned, how to write a rough draft
- **Friday 5/21** -- Rough draft due by midnight.
- **Mon 5/24**--Rough drafts returned with comments, prepare final draft in class-Wed
- **Wednesday 5/26**--First Period Final 8:30-10:15
- **Thursday 5/27**: Third Period Final 8:30-10:15

Scoring:

- Question Dissection = 20 points
- Rough Draft = 40 points
- Group testimony = 60 points ([linked guideline](#))
- Individual Performance (content and delivery) = 20 points
- Individual/peer evaluation = 10 points
- **TOTAL = 150 points!!!**

What will this look like? Watch last year's team's Unit 4 from Nationals [Here](#). (These were more challenging questions than you have but you can get the idea from watching how they orchestrated their response, shared information, helped each other out during Q & A and presented themselves professionally.)