

ACS's Constitution in the Classroom Project

Tips for Lawyers in Classrooms

- Teaching a classroom is like any other oral presentation. It is a good idea to **carefully prepare** each activity you plan to lead, each question you plan to ask and each lecture you will deliver. If your lesson calls for materials, it is also a good idea to organize the materials so that they will be ready to use without mid-lesson sorting.
- Be aware that a typical lesson is 45-55 minutes in length. **You might be surprised by how fast this time passes once the lesson begins.** Many of ACS' lesson plans are intended to be comprehensive, and may well provide enough material for several lessons. This is to help you be flexible and be prepared to shift gears as necessary. For a suggestion as to a well-paced lesson, see ACS' Middle School Lesson-in-a-Box.
- Students learn in different ways; some process information better when they see it, others when they listen to it, and others when they engage in tactile activities. Particularly if you're teaching younger students, you may want to consider ways your lesson might reach these kinds of learners. Middle and Elementary students have shorter attention spans and may not sit through a lecture that is longer than 5 minutes, without a break for discussion or some other activity.
- Try to **communicate with the teacher** whose classroom you are visiting about your lesson plan. The teacher may want to plan a homework assignment or an essay that builds off of your lecture. Some teachers may also have input about topics, or may specifically ask you to touch upon (or not touch upon) a particular issue which is included in their state curriculum.
- To **find a classroom to visit**, you can probably contact the middle or high school in the district where you reside. If you have school age children, you may also talk with their teachers or principal about being a guest teacher