



ANH Bar Foundation & NH Bar Association Program

Activity 2

Could You Pass the Test?

Topics Addressed

- Lack of knowledge of government
- US Constitution
- New Hampshire Constitution
- Citizenship

Time needed: 20 to 30 minutes minimum

Overview: This session will introduce participants to their role as citizens and increase their knowledge of the US and New Hampshire constitutions.

Format: This is a fast-paced, multi-dimensional presentation that relies on active audience participation. This is more than giving a speech. You are the ringmaster out in the audience actively engaging participants.

Preparation:

- Review Test Your Knowledge Bingo questions and answers.
- Read news story about US citizens lacking knowledge of their government.
- Review Q&A of US Citizenship Test

Group size: This activity works best for groups of 25 or more.

Handouts:

- Test Your Knowledge Bingo
- US Citizenship Test

Optional handouts: Pocket Constitutions if available. National Center for Constitutional Studies, (208) 645-2625, www.nccs.net1other.html (50 cents per copy)

Optional presentation materials: Powerpoint presentation may be used to supplement this activity. It is not required. The video of students reciting the preamble to the US Constitution may also be used to introduce or conclude the program.

Equipment: You may need a laptop and LCD projector. Discuss with your event contact.

20-30
minutes needed

This activity
works best
for groups of

25+

Handouts

Test Your
Knowledge Bingo;
US Citizenship Test

Ask if you need
to bring your
**laptop and
projector**

**Allow
5 minutes
to open**

Timing: Pace yourself! Allow five minutes for opening remarks. Allow 10 minutes for the Test Your Knowledge Bingo game. Allow 10 minutes for debriefing. Allow five minutes to close.

Getting Started

Opening: Begin with brief remarks about recent studies citing the limited knowledge Americans have about their government, the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Have someone assist you and distribute bingo cards face down. Ask participants not to review the handout while directions are being given. You may use the optional Powerpoint showing poll findings.

How to play: When participants turn the handout over, they will find questions about the US and New Hampshire constitutions. Tell them to treat the handouts like bingo cards. Participants should each go to different audience members and ask them a question and then write down the answer and the person's name in the block with the question. After that they should go to another person, ask another question from the card and write down the answer and the person's name. Play in this fashion for 10 minutes. Participants should get as many answers as they can and fill out the entire card if possible. Ask participants who complete the cards to join you at the front of the room.

Debriefing: Go over the bingo card, calling out questions and giving answers. If any of the participants who came to the front have a wrong answer, ask them to sit back down. For participants who have all correct answers, have Pocket Constitutions or gavels to give them. Tell participants the questions are from the US Citizenship Test and the New Hampshire Constitution. Distribute copies of the Citizenship Test. Ask how many audience members would be US citizens if they had to take this test today.

Closing

Discuss the importance of understanding the rights and responsibilities of citizens and how our government works particularly as it relates to the rule of law and the legal system. Let participants know that most people learn about the Constitution and US government from a high school government course. Today, New Hampshire students are required to take civics in middle school. Ask participants: Who does the Constitution protect you from? (Answer: The government.) Let participants know that if they would like to learn more about the Constitution, monthly sessions could be scheduled to provide forums for future exercises.

Distribute bingo handout as you review studies showing Americans lack basic knowledge of their government.

Allow 10 minutes for players to get answers.

Ask those with full cards to join you up front.

Call out questions and answers.

Give out copies of US Citizenship Test.

Allow 10 minutes for debriefing.

Allow 5-to-7 minutes for closing.

