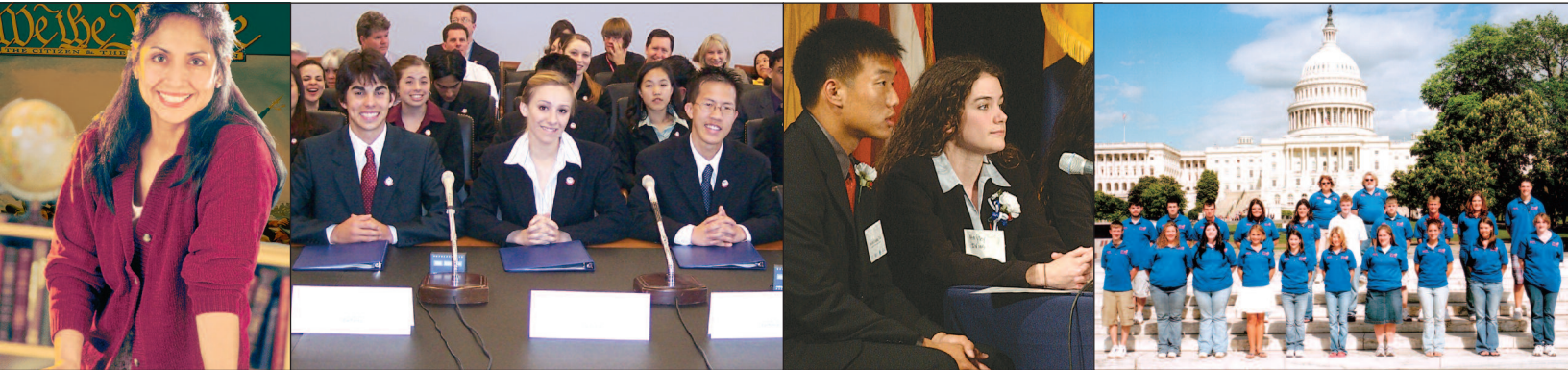




# We the People Evaluation Brief 2007



LEFT CENTER: 2005 California State Finals Competition RIGHT CENTER: 2004 Congressional Conference on Civic Education RIGHT: 2006 National Finals Competition

### THIS EVALUATION BRIEF PRESENTS SELECTED FINDINGS FROM THE DECEMBER 2007 RMC RESEARCH STUDY

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution promotes understanding of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and American democracy. We the People was developed by the Center for Civic Education and is implemented in all 50 states. In 2006–2007, the RMC Research Corporation conducted a quasi-experimental study to examine the effects of the We the People program on students’ political knowledge, civic skills, and civic attitudes. The study included 822 program participants who were compared to 735 students in matching high school government classes with similar demographics. In addition, We the People students’ post-survey scores were compared with the scores of 119 political science students at two universities.

### MAIN RESEARCH FINDINGS

- ★ Participating students made significantly greater gains than comparison students in their understanding of
  - ▶ Core values and principles of democracy
  - ▶ Constitutional limits on governmental institutions
  - ▶ Rights and responsibilities of citizenship
- ★ Participants also improved their civic skills, including their ability to analyze issues, to debate, to persuade, and to achieve group consensus.

### WE THE PEOPLE STUDENTS SCORED 30% HIGHER THAN THEIR PEERS AND 36% HIGHER ON AVERAGE THAN COLLEGE STUDENTS ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST OF POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE.

