

Florida Project Citizen Oral Hearings Procedures

Oral Hearings State Showcase Format

The Oral Hearings State Showcase will consist of two phases:

- Phase 1: Evaluation of the Project Citizen Portfolios
- Phase 2: The Mock Legislative Oral Hearings

During Phase 1, the evaluators will assess the portfolios prior to the arrival of the classes at the Oral Hearings State Showcase site. After Phase 1 is completed, the evaluators will evaluate the students' oral presentation of their portfolio during the Mock Legislative Hearing.

Rating System

The rating system is broken down into two categories for the State Oral Hearings Portfolio Showcase: Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Only the highest rated portfolio in Phase 1 will advance to the Project Citizen Round One National Showcase Evaluation (date and location TBD). Students do not attend the national programs; only the portfolio advances. Additional rounds will take place at the National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Legislative Summit Meeting (date and location TBD). The school with the highest rating will receive a state trophy for Best Overall Portfolio during the Florida showcase.

The school with the highest rated oral presentation will receive an award for Best Overall Oral Presentation.

It is possible for schools to win in both categories.

All students participating will receive Project Citizen Medallions.

Team Composition

Each class can **only** bring up to eight (8) students to participate in the Oral Hearings State Showcase. These students must be divided as follows:

- One (1) to two (2) students from portfolio panel group 1
- One (1) to two (2) students from portfolio panel group 2
- One (1) to two (2) students from portfolio panel group 3
- One (1) to two (2) students from portfolio panel group 4

Mock Legislative Oral Hearings Procedures

The purpose of the mock legislative oral hearings is to teach students to present and defend reasoned opinions related to influencing public policy. Each class will present a four-minute prepared oral presentation for each of the four portfolio panel groups. Two students will give the portfolio group presentation from the group that worked on that specific panel of the portfolio. In other words, the one to two students who give the oral presentation for portfolio panel group one focusing on the problem should be the student(s) who were assigned to work in that particular group as part of the class responsible for that specific section.

Each group must prepare a four-minute oral presentation that focuses on the most significant aspects of their group's section of the portfolio display component. Students may bring notes on index cards to help with their presentation but they should NOT read verbatim from the portfolio display. Students are encouraged to use graphics from the display to help explain or emphasize a point. ONLY USE materials included in the display during the presentation. Students should practice their oral presentations to conform to the time requirements for each panel.

The evaluators will begin the mock legislative oral hearings by introducing themselves to the students and asking the students from portfolio panel group one to come forward and introduce themselves. Evaluators will ask the students to begin by stating the public policy issue they will be presenting. This marks the start of the oral presentation for group one.

For groups two, three, and four, the evaluators will ask the students to state which section of the portfolio they are presenting. All students will stand with their respective section of the portfolio while giving their four-minute prepared statement. Students who are not giving their four-minute prepared statement may sit at their table.

After hearing **all** four groups prepared presentation, evaluators will ask follow-up questions to the entire class for a ten-minute period. This follow-up question period is an opportunity for students to clarify, expand, and defend the positions stated in their opening presentations. Students **MAY NOT USE** notes during the follow-up period, although they may refer to the portfolio display. The entire class will stand with their portfolio during the follow-up period.

Please contact me if you need more assistance on how to properly prepare your students for their four (4) minute presentations.

Feedback

At the conclusion of the mock legislative oral hearings, evaluators will give the class some concise feedback about their presentations for up to five (5) minutes.

Time Limits

An official timekeeper will to keep track of the time during the mock legislative oral hearings. The time limits for the mock legislative oral hearings are as follows.

Portfolio Group One: Four (4) minutes

Portfolio Group Two: Four (4) minutes

Portfolio Group Three: Four (4) minutes

Portfolio Group Four: Four (4) minutes

Follow-up Questions: Ten (10) minutes

Feed back: Up to five (5) minutes

Using these time limits, each oral hearing presentation and follow-up questioning should take approximately twenty-six minutes (26) to complete. The total time before the evaluators will be up to thirty-one (31) minutes including feedback.

Sample Oral Hearing Score Sheet Attached