

Our Classroom Constitution

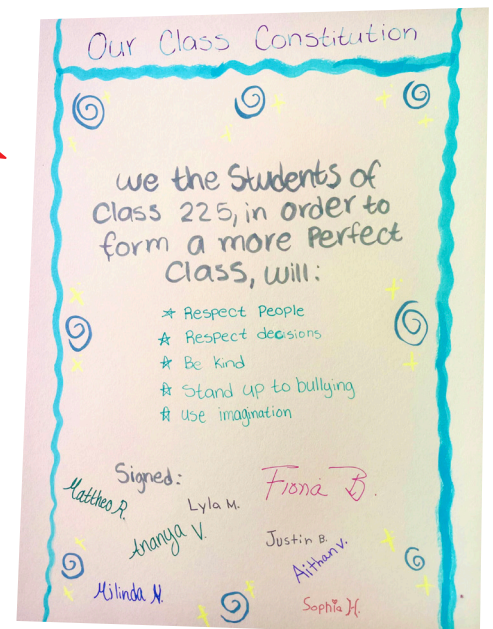
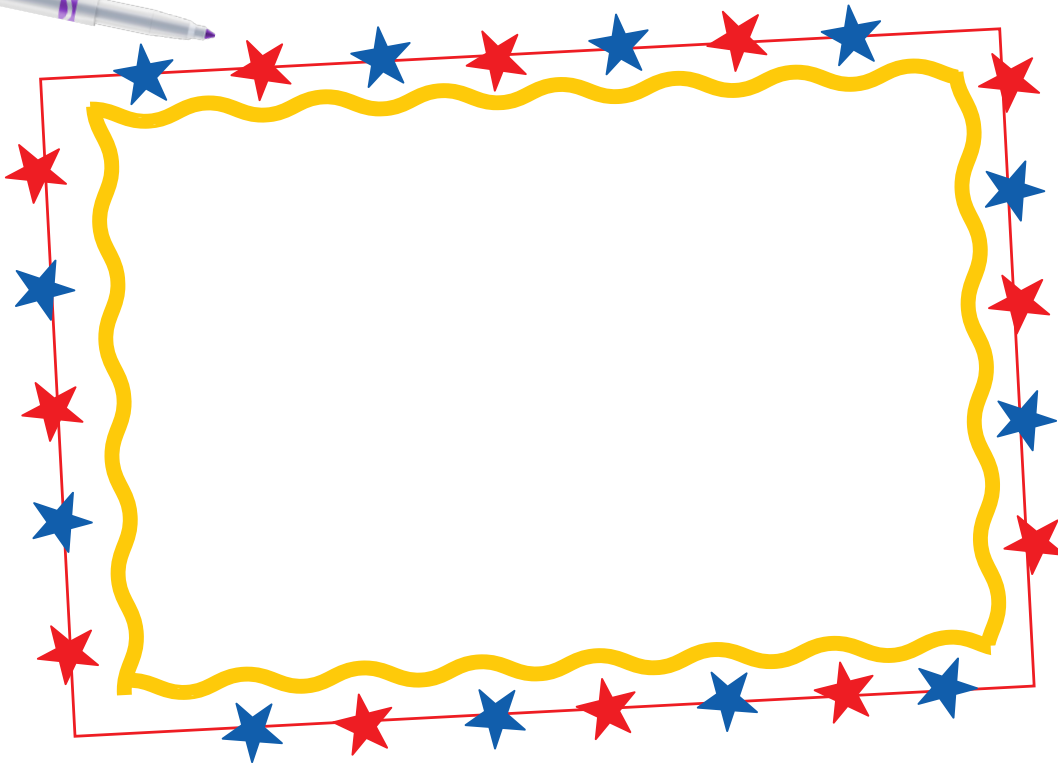
Student Leadership



RESPOND to the fact that nearly all countries around the globe have a national constitution. Some start with the words “We the people” and contain a Bill of Rights that outline how the nation is governed. All 50 US states have constitutions which outline the state’s priorities and address issues that affect the lives of citizens. Have a class discussion about what a constitution is and why a group of people would create one.



CREATE an illustration of some of the key phrases that are found in a constitution. What might “We the people,” “ensure tranquility,” “secure liberty,” “to ourselves and our posterity,” or other phrases look like in a scene of people implementing that goal?



CONNECT the words from some of the constitutions that you researched to find similarities and differences. Consider how your learning community (either your school or classroom) could benefit from having a constitution. How does a constitution help people understand how decisions are made and what is expected of them?



PRESENT your ideas for a schoolwide or classroom constitution to a small working group of classmates. Collaboratively identify the big ideas and some specific phrases or sentences that individuals on your team propose for the document. Write a draft and have each team present its suggested constitution. Discuss how to form consensus on what the document should say and plan how to convince decision makers to adopt this as a schoolwide or classroom constitution.