



Fast Fridays: Constitution Test Preparation Course Submitted by Kerri McGrath & Kim Mycke-Ford, Illinois Central College

Fast Fridays is a 5-week program for students who miss the traditional beginning of the semester enrollment dates. Students jumpstart their enrollment hours and then have first choice of class enrollment for the next session. Intake forms indicate their need for the Illinois Constitution Test for GED® completion.

The ICCB Constitution Study Guide is the primary text resource. Lectures cover key points in the workbook and weekly review quizzes reinforce learning. Supplemental in-class activities include watching History.com videos on historical figures and documents, completing ReadWorks lessons, and writing essays on the key points of the Declaration of Independence. Technology skills taught throughout the 5 weeks include using their college logins, accessing Blackboard, and sending e-mails.

GED® Test preparation topics are also incorporated into daily activities. Writing tips for the GED Test, unpacking a prompt and basic essay writing, and applying historical timelines are just a few of the items discussed. A lot of information is packed into the 5 weeks. We have found this helps maintain student interest and keeps them coming back for more.

The online Constitution Test is given during the final class meeting. Students must attend at least four out of the five classes to be eligible to take the test. Students celebrate their successes with their classmates and confirm their registration for the following class session.

Adapting the course for Covid: Classes moved to an all-online format in Fall 2020. The weekly quizzes became Blackboard digital quizzes and students took them at the end of each Zoom class meeting. Students accessed the supplemental videos and activities on their Blackboard classroom. They made appointments with the instructor to pick up hard copies of materials and to meet individually as needed. Discussion Boards on Blackboard encouraged student writing and class participation. Students came to campus in small groups to take the Constitution Test on the final class day.



Mar 2019 Graduating Class