

2004 Lead America Archived Course Descriptions



Congressional Student
Leadership Conference

Business and Entrepreneurship L.LEA – 195 Business & Entrepreneurship

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in Business and Entrepreneurship for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of the business world, from financial analysis to business ethics. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica's leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by business professionals with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically graduate business students or undergraduate upperclassmen in business programs.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Business and Entrepreneurship conference.

Marketing	Product Development	Company Organization
Management	Financial Analysis	Sales Strategies
Forecasting	Operations	Presentation Skills
Venture Capital	Opportunity Evaluation	

Readings: Students will be given approximately 140 pages of college level background reading assignments in business, management, and ethics. In addition, they will be given approximately 25 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will develop a business plan for a product of service of their own devising. At the end of the program, teams will present their business plans to real venture capitalists for feedback.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

- Set up and conduct a trade show
- Work with mentors from SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives)
- Meet with venture capitalists
- Simulate investing in peers' companies

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the city in which the conference is held, conference participants take trips to some or all of the following: web-development laboratories, stock exchanges, and business offices. In addition, students attending conferences in the Washington, DC area visit Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



Congressional Forum

L.LEA – 195 Congressional Forum

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in politics and government for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of politics and government, from congressional negotiation to presidential leadership. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica’s leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by experienced government officials with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically recent college graduates and undergraduate upperclassmen with political science backgrounds.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Congressional Forum conference.

Interest Groups
Negotiation
The Constitution
Caucuses

The Judiciary
Writing Legislation
Lobbyists
Floor Debate

Political Parties
The Executive Branch
Mass Media
Decorum

Readings: Students will be given approximately 60 pages of college level background reading assignments in political science and governmental policy. In addition, they will be given approximately 40 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will write legislation of their own and negotiate its passage through a model congress scenario.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

Simulate campaigns and elections
Debate current issues in national security
Practice careful and effective use of language
Deliver speeches to the simulated Congress

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the sights and culture of Washington, DC, conference participants take trips to the White House, Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian Institution, and Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



'We the Students'

L.LEA 195 – Constitutional Law

Overview: This class engages students in an intensive six-day study of the U.S. Bill of Rights through the fascinating prism of Supreme Court cases dealing with the rights of America's high school students. Students will read and analyze cases involving student political expression at school, organized prayer in the classroom and at graduation, the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the words "under God" in it, the display of the Ten Commandments above the blackboard, Christmas nativity scenes, official searches of students' belongings and persons, drug-testing of student athletes and others, inequity in school financing and school desegregation and discrimination. These academic deliberations will be enriched by continuing series of judicial role-plays and oral arguments, as well as class trips in the Washington area and appearances by constitutional lawyers and advocates.

Course Content: The course examines key constitutional doctrines and concepts, including: freedom of speech and expression, religious establishment and free exercise, search and seizure, Equal Protection, strict scrutiny, Due Process, and the right to privacy. It will also examine the process of constitutional amendment.

Readings: The main text is *We the Students: Supreme Court Cases for and About America's Students* (CQ Press and the Supreme Court Historical Society, 2nd ed.) by Jamin Raskin, which all students will be sent in advance of the class. A few other cases and assignments will be distributed. There will be a total of about 80 pages of reading.

Class Activities: Students will be asked to participate in a series of judicial role plays and arguments, acting as appellate lawyers and Supreme Court justices. They will be asked to participate as U.S. representatives and Senators representing their home states in debates about amending the Constitution.

Syllabus:

Wednesday, July 28: The First Amendment: Freedom of Expression. *West Virginia v. Barnette, Texas v. Johnson* and *Tinker v. Des Moines School District*. Read pp. 11-28 in WTS. In-class oral arguments and judicial decision-making: the "Channel Fun" exercise at p.21 and "Soft Drinks, Hard Choices" at p.28.

Thursday, July 29: The First Amendment: the Establishment Clause. *Engel v. Vitale, Wallace v. Jaffree, Lee v. Weisman, Stone v. Graham, Lynch v. Donnelly, Allegheny County v. ACLU Greater Pittsburgh Chapter, Newdow v. U.S. Congress*. Read pp. 71-86, 102-110. In-class oral argument and Supreme Court decision: the *Newdow* "under God" case.

Friday, July 30: The Fourth Amendment: Search and Seizure. *New Jersey v. T.L.O, Board of Education of Pottawatomie County v. Earls*. Read pp. 121-140. In-class oral argument and Supreme Court decision: Assume the Pottawatomie County School Board determines that its existing policy of

drug-testing only students in extracurricular activities has not substantially reduced the drug problem and now imposes a policy of drug-testing all students. Does this violate the 4th Amendment or not?

Saturday, July 31: The Fourteenth Amendment: Equal Protection and Due Process. *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Cooper v. Aaron*, *San Antonio v. Rodriguez*, and *Lawrence v. Texas* (to be distributed in class). Read pp. 161-170, 179-80 and *Lawrence v. Texas*. In-class oral argument: “Public Displays of Intolerance?” exercise at p.200 and additional materials.

Sunday, August 1: Congressional Debates on Proposed Constitutional Amendments (moderated by Professor Jamin Raskin). Students will make speeches, have debates and vote on three proposed constitutional amendments: one supported by President Bush that would allow Congress to criminalize desecration of the U.S. flag, one proposed by President Bush that would ban gay marriage and one introduced by Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. that would require equal financing of all public schools in the states. Luncheon Address by Professor Raskin: “Thinking Like a Lawyer, Acting Like A Citizen, Becoming A Leader.”



Crime Scene Investigation

L.LEA – 195 Crime Scene Investigation

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in Crime Scene Investigation for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of forensic science, from fingerprinting to case management. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica’s leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by college professors and law enforcement professionals, with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically recent college graduates and undergraduate upperclassmen.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Crime Scene Investigation conference.

Case Management	Ballistics	Interviewing
Deductive Reasoning	Facial Recognition	Profiling
Odontology	Rules of Evidence	Evidence Collection
Crime Scene Modeling	Crime Scene Photography	Forgery
Fingerprinting	Footprints	Forensic Entomology
Polygraphy	Gunpowder Residue	Toxicology
Hair & Fiber Analysis	Soil Analysis	DNA Analysis
Forensic Anthropology	Autopsies	Blood Spatter

Readings: Students will be given approximately 60 pages of college level background reading assignments in crime scene analysis and law. In addition, they will be given approximately 20 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will collect and analyze evidence from a simulated crime scene using the techniques they learn in the classroom. At the end of the program, teams will present their findings at an inquest.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

- Be on call to perform nighttime analysis of crime scenes
- Take tire track casts with dental stone
- Use computer software to reconstruct facial features
- Create a 3-D computer model of a crime scene
- Analyze and debate inaccuracies in TV portrayals of crime scene analysis

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the city in which the conference is held, conference participants take trips to some or all of the following: crime laboratories, famous crime scenes, and museums with forensic-themed exhibits.



Defense and Intelligence

L.LEA – 195 Defense & Intelligence

Overview: This conference is a six-day immersion in Defense and Intelligence for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of national security. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica’s leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by experienced teachers and government officials with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically former military personnel, recent college graduates, and undergraduate upperclassmen with background in defense and intelligence issues.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Defense and Intelligence conference.

Terrorism	Global issues	Threats to Democracy
Critical Thinking	U.S. Foreign Policy	National Decision Making
Intelligence Agencies	Governmental Organization	The United Nations
Political Parties and Interest Groups	Foreign Policy and Warfare	The U.S. Military

Readings: Students will be given approximately 80 pages of college level background reading assignments in defense, intelligence, and national security. In addition, they will be given approximately 50 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will take part in a national security simulation. They will play the roles of national and international intelligence and policy agencies to deal with an international crisis.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

- Experience a briefing on national security and defense at the Pentagon
- Study a single country or agency in depth so accurate role-play can occur
- Write and deliver speeches on national security and foreign policy
- Produce visual aids to accompany speeches

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the sights and culture of Washington, DC, conference participants take trips to the Pentagon, the International Spy Museum, Washington Navy Yard, Arlington Cemetery, and Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



Diplomacy and International Relations

L.LEA – 195 Diplomacy & Internatl Affairs

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in Diplomacy and International Relations for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of international relations. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica's leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by experienced government officials with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically recent college graduates and undergraduate upperclassmen with international relations backgrounds.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Diplomacy and International Relations conference.

UN History	Diplomatic Behavior	Globalization
Negotiation	Writing Resolutions	America's Role in the World
Language Analysis	International Careers	Mass Media
The Security Council	The Role of the Secretary General	Decorum

Readings: Students will be given approximately 60 pages of college level background reading assignments in political science and governmental policy. In addition, they will be given approximately 40 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will write resolutions of their own and negotiate their passage through several model United Nations scenarios.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

- Meet with representatives of the United Nations
- Explore cultural differences that could interfere with diplomatic communication
- Study a single country in depth so as to represent them in the Security Council
- Compete with other students for Delegate Awards

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the sights and culture of Washington, DC, conference participants take trips to Embassies, the State Department, Arlington Cemetery, and Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



Junior War College

L.LEA – 195 Junior War College

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in military history and strategy for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of military science, from battlefield logistics to tactical planning. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica’s leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by college professors and former military personnel with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically graduated or upperclass Cadets from the Citadel and the Virginia Military Institute.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Junior War College conference.

Strategic Thinking
The Marshall Plan
Vietnam
Operations Orders

Mission Analysis
Modern Strategy
George Washington

Napoleonic Warfare
The Middle East
21st Century Warfare

Readings: Students will be given approximately 120 pages of college level background reading assignments in medicine, medical policy, and ethics. In addition, they will be given approximately 40 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will study a 20th century battle and prepare their responses as military leaders. At the end of the program, students will submit their operations orders and simulate the course of the battle to its conclusion.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

Experience an unclassified CENTCOM briefing
Go through two Leadership Reaction Courses

- Marine Obstacle Course
- Vertical Entry Platform Jump
- POW Escape
- VMI Obstacle Course
- Leadership Problem Solving

Tour a Civil War battlefield site with a historical guide
Visit the Marshall Library and Archives

Off-site experiences: Conference participants take trips to: The Pentagon, New Market Battlefield, WWII Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, the VMI Museum. In addition, students will visit Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



Congressional Student
Leadership Conference
Law and Justice
L.LEA – 195 Law & Justice

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in Law and Justice for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of law, from courtroom techniques to legal ethics. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica’s leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by college law professors with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically undergraduate upperclassmen with Mock Trial experience.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Law and Justice conference.

Criminal Courts	Opening Statements	Direct and Cross Examination
Problem Solving	Legal Ethics	Experts and Witnesses
Objections	Jury Selection	Presentation Skills
Courtroom Decorum	Life as a Lawyer	Closing Arguments

Readings: Students will be given approximately 60 pages of college level background reading assignments in medicine, medical policy, and ethics. In addition, they will be given approximately 20 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will prepare a case for trial. At the end of the conference, they will go off site to real courtrooms and try their case.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

Rehearse and train for trial

Off-site experiences: Students take field trips intended to expose them to the city in which the conference is held. In addition, students attending conferences in the Washington, DC area visit Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



Leadership in Politics

L.LEA – 195 Leadership in Politics

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in politics and government for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of politics and government, from congressional negotiation to presidential leadership. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica’s leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by experienced government officials with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically recent college graduates and undergraduate upperclassmen with political science backgrounds.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Congressional Forum conference.

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The Constitution
Caucuses

The Judiciary
Writing Legislation
Lobbyists
Floor Debate

Political Parties
The Executive Branch
Mass Media
Decorum

Readings: Students will be given approximately 60 pages of college level background reading assignments in political science and governmental policy. In addition, they will be given approximately 40 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will write legislation of their own and negotiate its passage through a model congress scenario.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

Simulate campaigns and elections
Debate current issues in national security
Practice careful and effective use of language
Deliver speeches to the simulated Congress

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the sights and culture of Washington, DC, conference participants take trips to the White House, Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian Institution, and Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



Leadership University

L.LEA – 195 Leadership University

Overview: This conference is a six-day immersion in Leadership for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students learn to enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by professional leadership trainers with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically recent college graduates and undergraduate upperclassmen from a variety of backgrounds with strong leadership background and skills.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Leadership University conference.

Defining expectations	Developing trust	Leadership styles
Leadership traits	Self-Management	Running effective meetings
Maximizing potential	Team building	Communication skills
Attitude shaping	Crisis management	Goal Setting

Readings: Students will be given approximately 50 pages of college level background reading assignments on leadership traits, skills, and practices.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will build their leadership skills in order to be tested with a simulated crisis that calls on them to use all of their acquired skills.

Classroom Activities: Students who participate in the conference will:

- Undergo extensive leadership training using dynamic, interactive activities
- Perform a community service project
- Produce a video exemplifying leadership
- Develop a personal plan to extend leadership into their personal lives
- Write a personal and group journal to record and analyze leadership practices
- Extensively assess personal choices and habits to improve self-management

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the city in which the conference is held, conference participants in the Washington, DC area visit Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



Medicine and Healthcare

L.LEA – 195 Medicine & Healthcare

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in Medicine and Healthcare for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of healthcare, from medical techniques to insurance policy. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica’s leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by college professors and doctors, with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically medical students and undergraduate upperclassmen.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Medicine and Healthcare conference.

Anatomy	Case Management	Critical Thinking
Public Health	Interview Skills	Neurology
Surgery	Medical History	Oncology
Radiology	Chemotherapy	College/Med School Admission
Nursing	Medical Ethics	Alternative Therapies
Insurance	Health Policy	Medical Research

Readings: Students will be given approximately 60 pages of college-level background reading assignments in medicine, medical policy, and ethics. In addition, they will be given approximately 40 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will interview, examine, diagnose, and treat a (simulated) patient with a serious, life threatening disease. Issues of insurance, cost, ethics, surgery, medication, patient quality of life, religion, and end of life will be encountered.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

- Scrub in and perform simulated surgery on animal organs
- Meet with cancer survivors
- Debate medical ethics as portrayed in movies and on TV
- Perform a neurological exam
- Earn certification in First Aid and CPR

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the city in which the conference is held, conference participants take trips to some or all of the following: teaching hospitals, medical schools, and museums with medically-themed exhibits. In addition, students attending conferences in the Washington, DC area visit Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.