

Delaware/America 250 Event

Mock Second Continental Congress



Overview and Guided Practice
January 12, 2026

Welcome!

1. Please enter name, school, grade you teach in CHAT.
2. This session is being **recorded**.
3. Please **mute** your microphone.
4. **Questions** - enter into CHAT during the presentation, time set aside at the end to open up discussion.

Presenters

- **Fran O'Malley** (fomalley@udel.edu) -
Delaware Center for Civics Education at the
University of Delaware.
- **Nicole Worthley-Hall** (nicole.worthley@delaware.gov)
State Heritage Park, Delaware State Parks.

Overview



Mock 2nd Continental Congress Co-Sponsors



- Delaware 250
- Delaware Center for Civics Education
- Delaware Heritage Commission
- Delaware Historical Society
- Delaware Public Archives
- First State Heritage Park

Delaware Mock Second Continental Congress



The Vision and Hope

A mock convention in
every Delaware school
grades 6-12

Alignment to Delaware Standards

Civics

Grades 6-8

Students will understand the principles and content of major American state papers such as the **Declaration of Independence**; United States Constitution (including the Bill of Rights); and Federalist Papers.

History

Grades 6-8

Students will **examine historical materials** relating to a particular region, society, or theme; and **analyze change over time**; and **make logical inferences concerning cause and effect**.

Students will **examine historical documents**, artifacts, and other materials, and analyze them in terms of credibility, as well as the **purpose, perspective, or point of view** for which they were constructed.

Students will develop an understanding of Delaware history and its connections with United States history, including: **US & Delaware History-Beginnings to 1877**.

Grades 9-12

Students will analyze historical materials to **trace the development of an idea or trend across space or over a prolonged period of time** in order to explain patterns of historical continuity and change.

Students will examine and **analyze primary** and secondary sources in order to **differentiate between historical facts and historical interpretations**.

The Main Event Details

Date: May 1, 2026 (Friday)

Location: Legislative Hall Dover

Times: 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Participants: 41 students in House; 21 Delaware students in Senate (separated in House and Senate chambers)



Criteria for Selecting Delegates

Students nominated should...

- Exhibit high interest in the Congress content
- Be comfortable with public speaking
- Have strong interpersonal skills (strong potential for interacting well/respectfully with others from other schools)
- Agree to do pre Convention preparations which will include modest amounts of reading
- Be somewhat familiar with parliamentary procedures (guided practice on May 1st)
- Have demonstrated abilities to self-regulate and follow instructions
- Have studied the period that is part of the American Revolution leading up to the Declaration of Independence
- Have a history of being responsive to agenda times (being on time)

Absolute Requirements

- Student has accepted the invitation to participate if selected
- Have a chaperone
- Authorization from school to participate
- Have transportation to Dover or be able to get to pick up locations on time
- Submitted a signed parent/guardian permission form

School/District Deadlines

February 13, 2026 Friday	February 17, 2026 Tuesday	March 19, 2026 Thursday
Notification of intent to participate due. Link shared toward end of presentation.	Teachers notified of selected students and registration opens.	Registration closes.

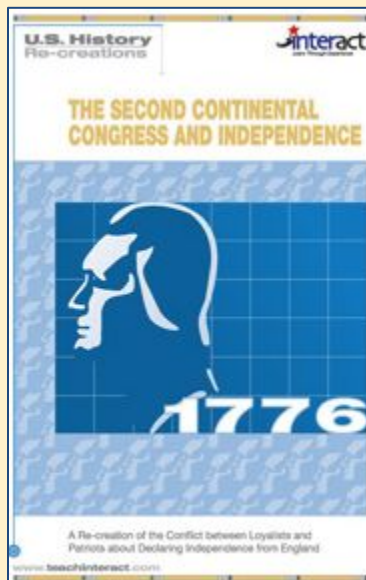
Tentative Agenda May 1st

- I. Welcoming remarks, agenda, rules
- II. Civil discourse guidelines
- III. Practice simple parliamentary procedures
- IV. Factions Caucus
- V. Floor Opens - Begin Debates on Resolutions
- VI. Lunch
- VII. Mock Convention Resumes
- VIII. Voting
- IX. Signing
- X. Awards/Reading of Student Essays

Anchor Text and Roles

Interact

<https://www.socialstudies.com/product/the-second-continental-congress-and-independence/>



Roles

Radicals - committed to a break.

Conservatives - committed to remaining part of Great Britain.

Moderates - the undecided faction.

Discussion Issues/Questions

- **Issue 1:** Should the colonies depend on England economically?
- **Issue 2:** Do the colonists still need England's protection?
- **Issue 3:** How justified are the colonists grievances?
- **Issue 4:** Should the colonists continue to obey the British government?
- **Issue 5:** In summation, what is the best interest of the colonies in America - to be, or not to be [independent]?

Rules of Debate

Simplified Parliamentary Procedures

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EiwyTK3O3tq3s9jcNFMPQI8XziYmTDL/view?usp=sharing>

If You Want to Do This...	Say This...	Must You Wait for the Chairperson to Call on You?	Must it be "seconded?"	Majority Needed to Approve
Debate a particular resolution.	<i>"Motion to discuss resolution # ____"</i>	Yes	Yes	Simple Majority (1/2 plus 1)
End debate on a resolution and vote.	<i>"Motion to end debate."</i>	Yes	Yes	Simple Majority (1/2 plus 1)
Put a resolution aside for while to discuss another resolution.	<i>"Motion to table resolution # ____"</i>	Yes	Yes	Simple Majority (1/2 plus 1)
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Guided Practice

Mock Second Continental Congress

A Note About Context

Culturally Relevant Considerations

Mock Convention Issues to Be Addressed



- **Issue 1:** Should the colonies depend on England economically?
- **Issue 2:** Do the colonists still need England's protection?
- **Issue 3:** How justified are the colonists' grievances?
- **Issue 4:** Should the colonists continue to obey the British government?
- **Issue 5:** In summation, what is the best interest of the colonies in America - to be, or not to be [independent]?

Guided Practice Issues Topic

Issue 3

How justified are the colonists grievances?



Assignment of Roles

Caucus in Breakout Rooms

Radicals Breakout Room 1	Moderates Breakout Room 2	Conservatives Breakout Room 3
Argue for a break with Great Britain https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-Xhbd0n6lNeW_-KG7TZSGvcoqoe6rYU5aBavYlEwUuY/edit?usp=sharing	The undecided faction https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Ah3T8gzuJjkOVYStDi4tdKMnKB58d5KwGvGlrvVdRk/edit?usp=sharing	Argue for remaining part of Great Britain https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Rbmd7teWdgBMVygV4qdCTN2HK9coA2-pzc0z0S2CYTw/edit?usp=sharing

Return from Breakout Rooms

Floor is Open

The chair will entertain the following:

- I. A motion to discuss Issue 3 - be sure to establish a position on the motion.
- II. Use chat box to sign up to be on the speaker's list.
- III. Person who made motion gets to speak first.
- IV. Speakers - 1 minute time limit.
- V. Motion to end debate and vote.
- VI. Motion to adjourn the guided practice "Convention".

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Deadlines and Forms

February 13: Notification of Intent to Participate due.

February 17: Teachers notified of selected students, registration opens.

March 19: Student registration closes.

Important Links

Notify of Intent to Participate:

[Delaware Mock 2nd Continental Congress Nomination Form - Delaware 250](#)

Registration link will be sent when notified of student acceptance.

Questions after Today

Nicole Worthley-Hall:
nicole.worthley@delaware.gov

Rebecca Fay (Delaware Historical Society):
RFay@dehistory.org



The End

Questions
Comments
Suggestions



Of Note

Delegates had to wait to vote for independence until their states authorized them to do so:

- **North Carolina** - April 12, 1776 ([source](#))
- *****Rhode Island** - May 4, 1776 ([source](#))
- **Virginia** - May 15, 1776 ([source](#))
- **Connecticut** - June 14, 1776 ([source](#))
- **Delaware** - June 15, 1776 ([source](#))
- **Maryland** - June 28, 1776 ([source](#))
- **New Hampshire** - June 15, 1776 ([source](#))
- **New Jersey** - June 21, 1776 ([source](#))
- **New York** had not received authorization as of July 4, 1776 ([source](#)) - they abstained from voting for independence because the state did not authorize them to ([source](#))
- **Pennsylvania** voted **against** independence on July 1, 1776 ([source](#))
- **South Carolina** voted **against** independence on July 1, 1776 ([source](#))
- etc.