

IMPACT EVALUATION RESULTS: SUPREME COURT SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS

The **Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers (SCSI)** is a six-day professional development program for secondary social studies teachers. Conducted by Street Law, Inc. and sponsored by the Supreme Court Historical Society, the program aims to improve the quantity and quality of teaching about the Supreme Court of the United States.

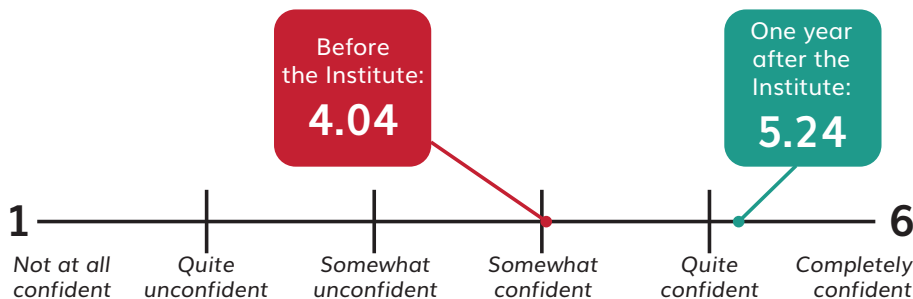


Summary of Evaluation Findings

This evaluation was conducted by researchers at the College of William and Mary's School of Education between 2014–2016. 49 participants were surveyed both before and after their participation in the Institute, as was a control group of 54 statistically similar teachers who had not yet attended the program.

1. Teachers became significantly more confident in using Institute teaching strategies and content.

- Before the Institute, on average, teachers were "somewhat confident" (4.04 out of 6) in using the Institute's teaching strategies.
- One year after the Institute, on average, teachers were between "quite confident" and "completely confident" (5.25 out of 6). This is compared to the control group's rating of 4.04.



"Perhaps the most important finding of the evaluation is that the Institute appears to work well for all participants regardless of their years of teaching, level of education, grade level, or type of school or community in which they work."

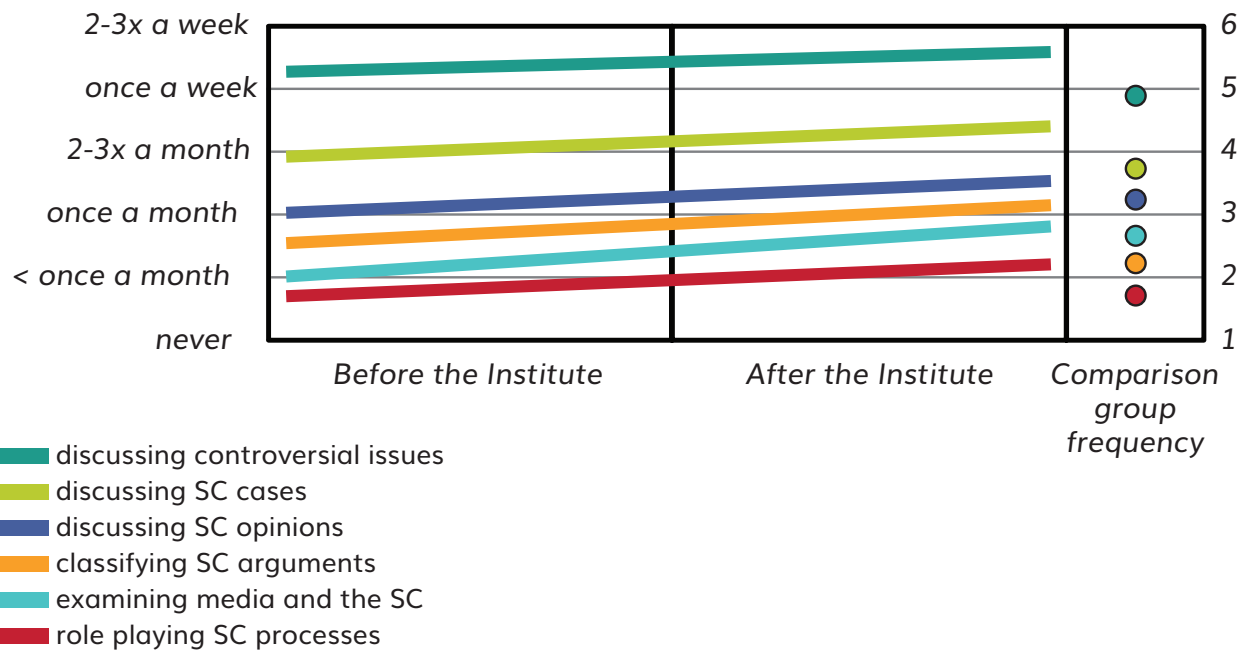
– Dr. Jeremy Stoddard &
Dr. Jason Chen

"I'm not sure how it could be better. It was and has been the best PD I have done as a teacher. I wish I could do it every year."

– participating teacher

2. Teachers' use of Institute teaching strategies and content increased.

- Teachers used the strategies and content in class more in the year after they attended than they had previously.
- Teachers used the strategies and content more frequently than the comparison group of similar teachers.
- Teachers identified moot court activities and case studies as the strategies that worked best in their classrooms—particularly for motivating students and generating deeper student understanding.



3. Teachers' knowledge about the Supreme Court grew.

- Before attending the Institute, participants took a 17-question test about the Supreme Court, its processes, recent cases, and concepts in constitutional law. Their average score was 10.6.
- At the end of the Institute, their average score was 14.6. One year later, the average score was 11.8. Teachers lost some of the knowledge they had gained during the program, but still scored higher one year later than they had before attending.
- Participants found the Institute to be very interesting and useful. Teachers ranked their interest in the program at an average of 5.6 out of 6.0 and the program's usefulness as a 5.7 out of 6.
- More than two-thirds reported sharing Institute materials with colleagues.



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Questions? See full evaluation report at www.streetlaw.org/evaluation

or contact Megan Hanson, Chief Program Officer ✉ mhanson@streetlaw.org ☎ +1 240-821-1316