

## CANDIDATES 'R US

### OBJECTIVE

- ✓ The students will be able to recognize and use appropriate vocabulary related to voting.
- ✓ Students will become *independent* decision makers through students' efforts of research on candidates.
- ✓ Students will share information with other classes of students and with their parents.
- ✓ Students will become informed regarding current candidates or issues.

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- ✓ What does it mean to be an informed voter?
- ✓ Why is it important to exercise the right to vote in a democracy?

### MATERIALS

Access to internet search engine.

### GET READY

Teacher should decide which political race(s) the class will research.

President

U.S. House of Representatives

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Assign students or groups of students a particular candidate or issue to research.
- ✓ Research may be done through the use of candidate or political party web sites, local or national media outlets, public speeches/debates, etc.
- ✓ All students will participate in fact finding and sharing process. Possible roles could be a junior reporter, technician, artist, scribe, etc.
- ✓ Ideas for sharing research results may include:
  - Creating posters with pictures and information,
  - Presenting information to others classes in the school- perhaps as a "Candidates' Hour" with students taking on the role of a candidate or sharing facts about the candidates with other classes
  - Developing a chart that presents information about the candidates: biographical information, party affiliation, their positions on various issues, etc.
  - Compiling a power point presentations,
  - Filming a video commercial,
  - Participating in role playing exercises,

- Staging a debate,
- Performing skits

### **ASSESSMENT**

- ✓ Student presentations
- ✓ Develop a rubric with the students. Include essential criteria to determine a quality product.
- ✓ Written and oral reflections

### **STANDARDS/BENCHMARKS**

- ✓ Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities B,4
- ✓ Government A, 2

### **NOTES**

- ✓ Differentiated learning could be accomplished through the varied responsibilities of the student learners.
- ✓ Resources for the current election can be found on the Kids Voting Central Ohio web site: [www.kidsvotingoh.org](http://www.kidsvotingoh.org) by September 5, 2008
- ✓ Share with us any of your student created materials at [contact@kidsvotingoh.org](mailto:contact@kidsvotingoh.org). We are looking for student created materials to post on our website as resources for other classes.