

POLITICAL JOURNALISTS

OBJECTIVE

- ✓ Students will be able to conduct an interview with questions from Kids Voting and other questions created by classmates.
- ✓ Students will be able to write summaries of the candidates' responses to indicate student understanding of the candidates' positions.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- ✓ What does it mean to be an informed voter?
- ✓ What does the President or U.S. Representative do in her/his job?

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Students will create 5 questions to submit to the local headquarters of the national party candidates and/or the candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives for their congressional district. Students will write summaries of the candidates' responses and which will be posted on the Kids Voting website before the election.
- ✓ Questions might cover issues such as:
 - What is the most important problem affecting children that you want to solve?
 - What is your position concerning year round schools?
 - What plans do you have to improve our environment?
- ✓ Teacher responsibilities:
 - Teacher needs to mail or email the questions to the candidate's headquarters. Student questions and candidate responses can be posted on the KidsVoting website. "No response" will also be noted on the website.
 - The teacher needs to provide a digital photo of his/her class to be posted on the website next to the interview dialog.
 - The student summaries may need to be edited by the teacher.

The candidate responses should be turned into Kids Voting by Oct. 10, 2008 to facilitate posting of interviews on KV website for use by other students. Student created materials may be shared with others via submission to the Kids Voting Central Ohio at contact@kidsvotingoh.org.

ASSESSMENT

The process of interviewing, creating questions, writing summaries and editing will allow the teacher to determine if understanding the objectives is mastered.

STANDARDS/BENCHMARKS

- Government: A, 2
- Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities: B 3

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- Social Studies Skills and Methods B

NOTES

- The question may arise for the teacher and candidate: Why should I do this? The teacher gains recognition from the web site posting, picture of the class and possible media coverage. The candidate chances to lose the public's good will if he/she refuses to be interviewed and a "no response" is posted next to his/her name on the web site.
- Classes providing materials to KVCO will be producing an invaluable resource to the voters in the district while empowering students as examples of civic leaders and informed voters.
- A large district may want the fifth grade classes to collaborate on the questions giving each class a different issue on which to create questions. Kids Voting hopes to post the results on the website. This allows other classes to view the candidate answers before the election.
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Suggested lessons from the Kids Voting K-5 Classroom Activities Book that correlate with this lesson:

1. "Vote Quotes" (pp.6-7: Right/Vote)
2. "Literature Connection – The Vote: Making Your Voices Heard" (p.25: Elec/Voting)
3. "Democracy: What is it and what does it have to do with me?" (pp.2-4: Dem/People)
5. "The President's Hats" (pp.7-12: Dem/People)
6. "In Their Words" (p.13: Dem/People)
7. "Freedom Connection" (p.21: (Dem/People)
8. "Where Did You Hear That?" (pp.8-9: Elec/Voting)
9. "Our Homes, Our Town, Our Country" (pp.3-4: Cit)
10. "Judging Propaganda" (p.3-4: Cit)
15. "Citizen Reporters" (p.5: Cit)