

Voting Rights & Elections

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will participate in a structured mock election/debate to understand campaign issues, platforms, and the voting process.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- paper
- index cards
- a small box or container (ballot box)
- pencil

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose a real or invented local issue (e.g., a new park, school lunch policy, curfew rules) to be the topic of a mock election.
2. Create two candidate profiles on index cards, each with a name and 3 platform positions on the issue.
3. Write a 1-minute stump speech for one candidate and present it aloud to at least one family member.
4. Create simple paper ballots and hold a mock vote among available family members, using a small box as the ballot box.
5. Tally the votes and calculate the percentage of votes each candidate received.

QUESTIONS

1. **What issue did your mock election focus on, and what were each candidate's 3 platform positions?**

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2. **What were the final vote tallies and percentages for each candidate?**

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3. **What historical barriers (such as poll taxes or literacy tests) once prevented some Americans from voting, and how were they eventually addressed?**
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4. Why is voting considered an important civic responsibility in a democracy?
