

Growing Voters and Election 2008

Activity Title: **Kid-to-Kid: Older grade presentations for younger grades**

Middle School Grade Level

Overview

A very effective way to learn material is to teach it to others. In this activity, students actively engage with content as they build their own teaching materials and present to a class in a lower grade. Instead of hearing passively about the significance of political parties in this country, here the students are asked to answer that question for themselves in preparation for explaining it to younger students. Older students will need to find out party platforms and candidate stances on issues so they can be informed presenters outside their classrooms.

Objectives

- Students will produce thoughtful comparisons between the political parties and the candidates in the presidential election
- Students will gain the ability to clearly explain the positions and issues that each party champions.
- Students will work collaboratively to gather information.
- Students will improve their understanding of the electoral process by explaining it to younger students.
- Students will create and deliver a multimedia presentation expressing their understanding of the content and designed to teach material to others.

Activity

The class will create a multimedia presentation on the election that will be practiced with their class and then presented to another class as appropriate (if another school is continuous or nearby, or a class within the same school). The presentations can also be put on the internet for sharing purposes. Student presenters will use their presentation materials to inform other students about the parties and candidates.

Stage 1 Divide the class into groups and each group prepares a short PowerPoint presentation for the class which includes

- Compare and contrast the major candidates
- Select at least two major issues and give the position of the candidate
- At least one picture that was either scanned in or taken off the Internet.
- Some other facts that they have learned about the candidate
- How the issues in the upcoming election effect their community

Consider background prep topics like, “What do the parties and candidates stand for and historically why were the parties formed?”

Students can research online using linked sites recommended at the *Growing Voters* site.

[Note an alternative approach is to form the presentations around the topic of Why or How to Vote? Use the questions found at the *Growing Voters* “Why Vote? Pamphlet” activity.]

Stage 2 Combine the presentations of each group and refine as a class. The separate presentations can be combined into one that will be put on the internet to facilitate sharing, collaboration, and presentation. The overall presentation will include:

- Introduction to class –
- Introduction to Presentation–
- A brief overview about the election process and the job of the president

Step 3 Arrange for students to visit another class to give their presentations. If that is not feasible, then put the presentation on the internet and use a collaboration tool (i.e. a blog,) or video the student presentations and put the video online (i.e. eyespot.com).

For high school students, this could be done in the form of a Podcast.