

Voting Responsibility (3-5)

Social Studies, Language Arts, and Mathematics

Summary: Students study citizenship, civic responsibility, and the history of voting rights in America. They promote voting as a civic responsibility through displays, public service announcements, and a mock election.

Service and Learning Activities

Preparation: Invite civic leaders to speak about the history of voting rights in the United States and/or the local community. Make a list of things that people vote on. Prepare a survey about voting habits in the community. Analyze and document the survey data. Outline the history of voting rights and/or make a timeline.

Action: Create bulletin boards and book displays about the history of voting and the survey results. Hold an election or poll at the school on a topic of interest. Make advertisements for the election to broadcast on the school news.

Reflection: Students write letters to the editor to encourage citizens to exercise their right to vote. How could this project be improved? What are some next steps? What were the greatest challenges in doing this project?

Demonstration: Bulletin boards and book displays; timeline of voting rights. Invite the media to cover the election and voting responsibility project. Students can also create and present poems, public service announcements, songs, artwork, lessons, videos, skits, displays, or murals to teach other students or the larger community about the project, the need(s) it addresses, and the impact of their efforts.

Standards

Social Studies: The student

SS.A.1.2 Understands historical chronology and the historical perspective.

SS.A.5.2 Understands U.S. history from 1880 to the present day.

SS.C.2.2 Understands the role of the citizen in the American democracy.

Language Arts: The student

LA.B.2.2 Writes to communicate ideas and information effectively.

LA.C.3.2 Uses speaking strategies effectively.

Mathematics: The student

MA.E.1.2 Understands and uses the tools of data analysis for managing information.

MA.E.3.2 Uses statistical methods to make inferences and valid arguments about real-world situations.

Academic Objectives

- Understand the history of voting rights in the U.S. and voting as a civic responsibility
- Learn how to create a survey and analyze the data collected
- Use math and writing skills to create a timeline on the history of voting rights.
- Understand the processes of an election and hold an election
- Use persuasive writing skills to write a letter to the editor

Assessment(s): Timeline, displays, PSAs, bulletin board, journals, survey, and letter to the editor

Service Objectives

- Advocate voting as a civic responsibility

Assessment(s): Response to voting campaign and survey results, increase in voting percentages in districts where the students conducted their advocacy campaign