

Lesson Plan - Create-A-Candidate

Objective:

- Students will research the stances on major policy issues held by both political parties, debate the issues from the point of view of one party, and create a hypothetical political candidate by developing a campaign strategy.

Standards:

- ODE American Government Standards
 - Federal, state and local governments address problems and issues by making decisions, creating laws, enforcing regulations and taking action.
 - Democratic government is enhanced when individuals exercise the skills to effectively participate in civic affairs.

Materials

- Web access for research purposes

Resources for research: <http://www.procon.org>
<http://www.ontheissues.org/Issues.htm>
www.gop.com
www.democrats.com

- Materials for campaign posters, brochures, etc...

Sequence

- In this processing activity, groups will be assigned to one of three races, and one of two political parties
 - U.S. Senate Race, Democrat and Republican
 - Ohio House Race, Democrat and Republican
 - Mayor's Race, Democrat and Republican
- Day One – Questions to answer
 - Who is your candidate?
 - Name, gender, age, race, educational and professional experience, marital status, etc..
 - What does your candidate believe?
 - Your answer should be based on their political party and level of government (local, state, federal)
 - Resources for research: <http://www.procon.org> and <http://www.ontheissues.org/Issues.htm>
 - Republican party – www.gop.com
 - Democratic party - www.democrats.org
- Days 2 – 4
 - Create campaign slogan to feature on literature, handouts, posters, buttons for the candidate fair “meet and greet”
 - Prepare for debate with opposing team.
 - Introduction statement, information points for arguments and rebuttals, closing remarks
- Day 5: Candidate Fair Meet and Greet

- One member of your team must “play” your candidate and entice voters with information about their platform.
 - Each team will have a table to creatively display literature, brochures, handouts, etc...
 - Students visit each candidate’s table to learn more about and interact with each.
- Day 6: Debate
 - For each race, candidates will give their opening statements, field questions and give answers based on the point of view of their party, and finish with closing remarks.
 - Students will be prepared for questions based on the previous day’s Candidate Fair.

Evaluation

50 Points for Candidate Fair

- Candidate’s Personality
- Candidate’s Information
- Campaign Button and Slogan
- Literature, Posters, etc
- Overall look of Booth

50 Points for Debate

- Opening Statement introduces candidate and what he/she believes
- Arguments match beliefs of party
- Promises match needs of correct level of government
- Closing Statement entices voters
- Overall performance of team