



Democracy and You Course

Presented by Voters2Be



Voters2Be

BOOSTING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



Welcome!

About me and the Course



Session 1 Topics



- Bias and Differing Views
- Democracy
- Political Participation
- Political Participation Game
- Bill of Rights Reading and Writing Activity
- Connection between the Bill of Rights and Democracy

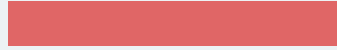


Bias Intro Activity



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- Respect will be important throughout this course

Icebreaker Intro



Name one thing you know about the topics we are going to discuss, one thing you hope to learn, and one question you have

What is democracy?



- Group brainstorming session
- Let's Learn: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-feDZRxJKw>



What is political participation?



- What do you think political participation is?
- What are different ways that you think you could engage in politics as a teen?
- How does political participation relate to democracy?
 - Let's learn: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNc2S3u5XQA>



Political Participation Game

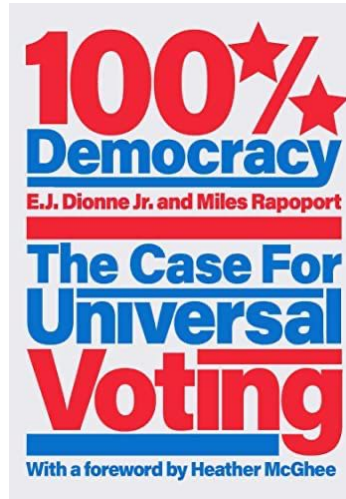


- Can I have two volunteers to be our political candidates for the grape and apple party?
- Step 1: Each candidate gives a 30 second pitch for why their fruit is better
- Step 2: Check the chat or my instructions to see if you have been told that you are allowed to vote
- Step 3: Raise your hand for which fruit you would vote for (based on whether you were told if you can vote)
- Step 4: We will repeat this process 3 times to see the result difference as the voter turnout level changes

Debrief



- Why do you think we played the political participation game?
- What does the game show about the importance of voting in politics?
- What does the game teach us about political participation?
- What other takeaways do you have?



Bill of Rights



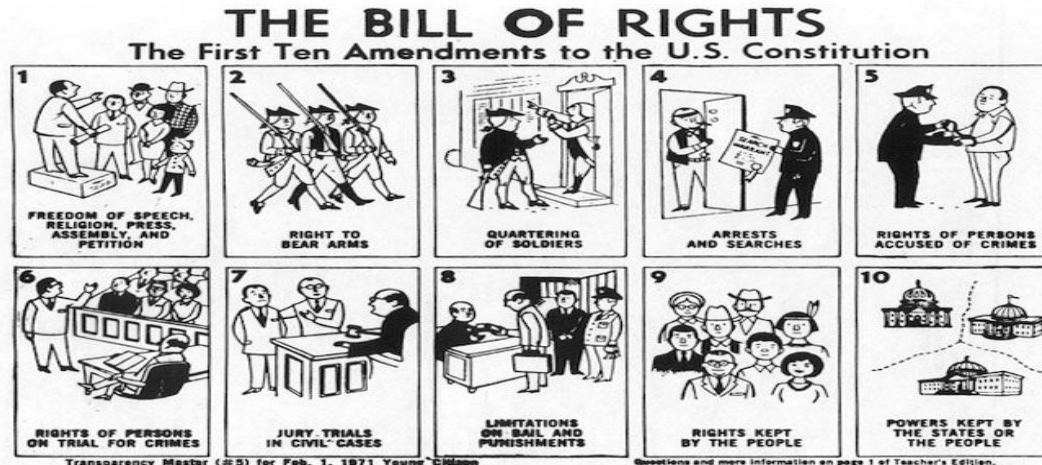
- What is the Bill of Rights?
- What rights do you think that all people should have? List out 5 in the chat or on paper
- Share Out
- What are the actual Bill of Rights, and why do they matter?
 - https://users.csc.calpoly.edu/~jdalbey/Public/Bill_of_Rights.html
- What connections do you see between your Bill of Rights and the actual document?



Takeaways



Democracy is all about how citizens can make a difference and have a voice in politics and the issues that impact their lives. In order to make a difference, citizens must have basic rights and know what rules to abide by. The Bill of Rights gives this information.



Session 2 Topics



- Importance of Voting
- Voting statistics
- Powers of a vote
- Impact of Voting Game
- History of voting in the US



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Why does voting matter?



- Why do you think voting matters?
- Let's do a group reading:
<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/why-voting-important/>
- Let's watch a video to supplement the reading:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Vf_mmb0ED4
- How do your original views differ from what you just learned about?

Your **VOTE** matters

Voting is one of the most influential civic activities we can engage in as Americans. That's why we've long provided our employees with resources to help them get registered.

This year, we're taking our support a step further as the official airline of the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD), flying the crew that will produce each of the debates.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed air travel, we've learned that with some planning and extra effort, it's still possible – and safe. That's true of voting, too.

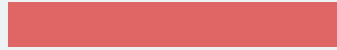
No matter which party you support or how you're planning to vote, we know our democracy will be stronger if you make your voice heard and make a plan to vote.

Voting Statistics



- Do you remember the voting simulation we did last time?
 - Our simulation gave us some statistics for a mock election
- Let's look at some real election statistics:
 - https://fairvote.org/resources/voter-turnout/#voter_turnout_101
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voter_turnout_in_United_States_presidential_elections
- How could the lack of people voting impact election results and peoples' lives?
- How do these statistics demonstrate the importance of the youth population voting when they turn 18?

What are the powers of a vote?



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5z01ZcevMw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqstTAWFmao>



Voting Game



- We are going to play a more realistic version of our last voting game
- Does anyone know what the electoral college is?
- We are going to have candidates A and B. Everyone else will be voters, assigned to either the 10, 15, 20, or 25 electoral vote state.
- You will be told whether you can vote in the election and what your vote is for
- We will do three rounds of this activity
- Why did we modify the voting simulation this way?

History of Voting



Let's watch this video, which will prepare us for our conversation during the next session:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=No7ewLdJU_Y



Session 3 Topics



- Review of Importance of Voting
- How have people been denied the right to vote?
- Voting Rights simulation and game
- Importance of equal voting rights
- Voting Rights and connection to democracy



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Why do we vote?



- What have we learned about voting?
- What is the importance of voting?
- Why do we vote?
- What are some reasons that people vote? What issues that people care about can be affected by voting?
- Group Reading and Video:

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/why-voting-important/>

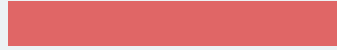


The Right to Vote



- How have people been denied the right to vote? What groups of people have been denied the right to vote? How have they responded?
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4XtZ-tIzIA>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9VdyPbbzII>

Voting Rights Simulation



- Form three groups
- Milk vs. dark chocolate election
- Group A can only vote in round 1
- Group A and B can vote in round 2
- Group C can vote in round 3 if they pass the voter eligibility test

Voter Eligibility Test



- Who was the 1st president?
- Who was the 31st president?
- Who is currently the president?
- These tests were things that Black people, people of color, and women often had to face in order to vote. These groups had much higher barriers to voter participation.

Answers



1. George Washington
2. Herbert Hoover
3. Joe Biden



Debrief



- For people in groups A and B, how did this activity feel?
- For people in group C, how did it feel? Did this feel unfair to you?
- Why do you think we played this activity?
- Group C, Did you feel like the decisions made by the earlier groups were fair?
- If you were voting while other groups could not, how did that feel? Did anyone feel pressure to consider the opinions of people who couldn't vote?
- Groups A, B, and C in reality
 - A: white males owning land
 - B: all white males
 - C: Male emancipated slaves and women

Why are equal voting rights important?



Session 4



- Political Issues and Becoming an Educated Voter
- Political Parties
- Fact Finding Activity
- Learning about different policy topics: economics, healthcare, Covid-19, foreign policy, domestic policy, racial rights, LGBTQ+ rights, climate change, abortion



Bias Intro Activity



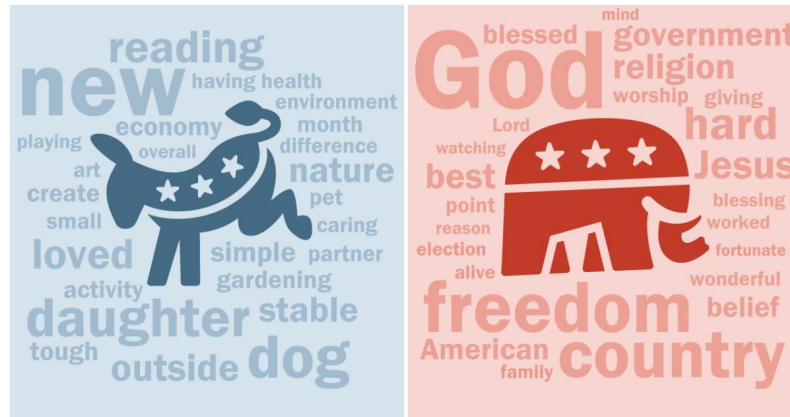
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Political Parties



Guiding Question: What are the main political parties, and what do they believe in?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5cLtd0cxfo>

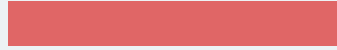


Learning about the Issues



- Split into three groups. Each group will look at and learn about 2 different political issues
- Look up videos, articles, and fact sheets about the topics
- After each group learns about their assigned issues, we will share out so everyone gets the chance to learn about different issues
- Group 1: Economy, Healthcare
- Group 2: Domestic Policy, Foreign Policy
- Group 3: Racial Rights, LGBTQ+ Rights

Resources to Consult



Group 1:

- a. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CamHuVSm_IQ
- b. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2q7iCzsB54,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5EovSvIMfE>

Group 2:

- a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da6OSmv8qOc>
- b. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKsuCxweZDo>

Group 3:

- a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCjDnX-Xzhq>
- b. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pimq0LXN9RM>

Session 5



- Voting Simulation and Reasoning
- Debrief
- Takeaways
- Conclusion



Bias Intro Activity



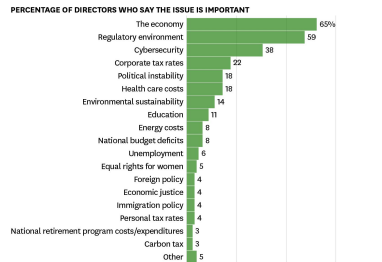
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What do people vote for?



- When choosing how to vote for, most people (but not all) vote by party, meaning for the democratic or republican candidate
- However, it is important to be an informed voter by understanding each candidate's stances on specific political issues
- By understanding the different political issues, a voter can ensure that their vote aligns with what they care about

The Political Issues Board Directors Care Most About



Simulation



- We have candidate A and candidate B we will be voting on to be the next president of the US
- Candidate A:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wmh-gFMzJV_hiuGALkWFi__weZcMnP1dTUNq0XYfr_w/edit?usp=sharing
- Candidate B:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/15YUzuZHyIPOY9klw2rRVcL6jnXH9XXK58jXnw2_7hAo/edit?usp=sharing
- Voting
- Reasoning for vote and explaining with the issues

Share Out



- Sharing reasons for your vote
- Takeaways from the course
- Why civic engagement/youth participation in politics matters

Thank You!



Becoming part of the Voters2Be community means that you recognize the importance of voting and are ready to cast your vote. Becoming a Voter-To-Be means that you are informed about the issues that matter and are part of the next generation of voters.