

Theme: Democracy & Voting

September

Lesson Plans A La Mode

How is running a country like running a company? How does the job of president of a company compare to the job of a country's president or prime minister? Look through the Business section and skim articles about company leaders. List the attributes that make a good business leader and compare those to attributes of a good political leader.



Build your "voting vocabulary" by finding each of these in today's news, if possible. Define in context.
poll
issue
candidate
taxes
Bonus:
Define "democracy."



Take a poll in your class to see which candidate your classmates predict will win the U.S. presidential election. Each student should vote, not for his or her choice but for the one they think will win. Compute the percentage.



One issue that arises often during elections is global warming and environmental policies. Skim today's paper to find stories about the environment. If you're reading an e-edition, use the Search tool to look for keywords about the environment. Then write an editorial about the role of government in protecting the planet.

National Learning Standards:

McRel (Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning) Standards:

Language Arts

Standard 3. Uses a variety of strategies to extend reading vocabulary (e.g., uses analogies, idioms, similes, metaphors to infer the meaning of literal and figurative phrases; uses definition, restatement, example, comparison and contrast to verify word meanings; identifies shades of meaning; knows denotative and connotative meanings; knows vocabulary related to different content areas and current events; uses rhyming dictionaries, classification books, etymological dictionaries)

Math

Benchmark 7, 2 Understands the concept of percent

Social Studies

Life Skills, working with others

Standard 5, Benchmark 3. Knows a variety of leadership strategies, and knows which strategies to implement in specific situations

Science

Level III [Grade 6-8] Benchmark 11. Understands the origins and environmental impacts of renewable and nonrenewable resources, including energy sources like fossil fuels (e.g., coal, oil, natural gas)