

# Election Lesson Plan

**Premise of this lesson:** The goal of this lesson is to teach students how to discuss a topic of contention—in this case, the quadrennial Presidential election—without becoming emotionally overwhelmed or interpersonally disagreeable. It is also to give students practice in developing and airing different opinions and exchanging views in a controlled, academic environment.

**Setting the stage:**

Students can review the Civil Discourse Guidelines and Statement, the Disagreement Pyramid, Helpful phrases, and/or Good Faith vs. Bad Faith discussions.

**Teacher:** Review “Managing the Classroom Climate,” “3 Steps to Healthy Discourse in the Classroom,” and/or “Developmental Readiness and Classroom Debates.”

## ELECTION LESSON

Have students review the major party platforms:

Democratic platform  
Republican platform

## ASSIGNMENT

In each platform, list 3 points that either grab your attention or that you like and list at least one thing you disagree with or are not sure you like.

Review each of the candidates, objectively and respectfully:

List 3 things going for him/her  
List 2 things going against him/her

Critical Thinking and Discussion Questions

Which is more important to you: the platform of the party or the candidate? Why?

Would you be comfortable sharing in public which candidate you support? Why or why not?

Why do you think we keep people’s votes private in this country?

Writing assignment:



OPTION 1: Write 1 page about the candidate you support, offering reasons why you prefer this candidate.

OPTION 2: Write 1 page comparing the two party platforms, identifying at least 1 significant difference between them and why you think it is an important distinction.