

VOTER GUIDE LESSONS

Grades
7-12

Two former VT teachers who now work in our office offered five lesson/activity ideas for our Voter Guide:

New for the 2024 General Election! Our office created a Voter Guide for statewide and legislative candidates. It includes candidate statements as well as position descriptions for elected offices on the ballot. You can access the Statewide Guide [here](#) and search by district. Students can also ask their parents to access a ballot-specific version of their Voter Guide on the [My Voter Page](#).

Pre-Write and Discussion Question

- Have students pre-write to the prompt: what questions would you ask a candidate? What would you want to know?
- Generate a class list that all/most agree on.
- Then look at candidate statements to see if they answer the class' questions. (Discussion, 4 corners, solo/group work)

Four Corners Discussion

- Set up four corners of your room with “Yes,” “No,” “Maybe,” or “I need more information!”
 - Ask questions that students would need to defend their answers, such as:
 - “Does the Lt. Governor have a vote in the Senate?”
 - “If the person above them is unable to perform their duties, two of these positions would have to step up to fill their role“
 - “Justices of the Peace *only* perform weddings.”

Play “Guess Who / 20 Questions”

- Option for students to be the facilitator of their own group / or, in a role-reversal, of the teacher!
- Students are given characteristics of each government position and must guess the correct one in less than 20 questions. Teachers can quiz students, students can quiz teachers, students can quiz their groups.

Unscramble (*Formative Assessment Challenge*)

- Separate the titles of the positions from their descriptions (pieces of paper) and have students work solo, in groups or pairs to see how fast they can match the correct ones.
- LEVEL 2: Scramble! Add one line into each position description from one of the others, and have students race to identify them and match them back to their correct position.

Research / Relevant Textual Evidence Tie-In

- Students have a “mock text-based question” such as: “What role does each Vermont Official play protecting the public?”
 - Students are to research and find one online, credible source about each current Vermont Official. Students then provide one piece of textual evidence that answers the mock text-based question for each official.
 - Students can use this to write a CPEA/LEAF paragraph; multiply this for larger writing assignments / essay.

C3 Civics Standards D2.Civ.1.9-12	C3 Civics Standards D2.Civ.7.9-12	C3 Civics Standards D2.Civ.5.9-12
Distinguish the powers and responsibilities of local, state, tribal, national, and international civic and political institutions.	Apply civic virtues and democratic principles when working with others.	Evaluate citizens' and institutions' effectiveness in addressing social and political problems at the local, state, tribal, national, and/or international level.