



## Elementary Election Literacy

**Lesson Name: Why is it important to participate in government?**

**Time Allotted: 30-40 Minutes**

### Essential Questions:

What rights and responsibilities do we hold as citizens of the United States?

Does my vote really make a difference?

### Assessment of Mastery of Objectives:

Conduct an in class election or vote on a topic of choice.

Students will discuss the benefits of participating as a citizen and present opinions to the class or small group for open discussion.

### Question or Problem for Students:

Can you support a decision that is made for you, or is it better to participate in the decision making process?

### Special Directions for Cooperative Grouping:

- Students discuss rights and responsibilities of US Citizen. Background information can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.749cabd81f5ffc8fba713d10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=39d2df6bdd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=39d2df6bdd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD>
- Ask class about issues that they feel need to be changed within the class and create a list.
- As a group, poll to find the top two issues.
- Divide group in half, and assign each group an issue.
- Each group should come up with a solution, making sure that an agreement is met by majority rule.
- Have each group come up with an implementation plan and schedule for their solution.
- Have each group present and share solution and implementation schedule.
- Discuss as large group for agreement.
- Close by reviewing "Can you support a decision that was made for you, or is it better to participate in the process?"

### Resources for Groups:

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.749cabd81f5ffc8fba713d10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=39d2df6bdd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=39d2df6bdd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD>

*Vote!*

by Eileen Christelow

Lesson Plan:

[http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/readers\\_guides/christelow\\_vote.shtml](http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/readers_guides/christelow_vote.shtml)

<http://www.vermontvotesforkids.com/difference.html>

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/why-is-it-important-to-vote.html>