# 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.749cabd81f5ffe8fba713d10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=39d2df6bddd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=39d2df6bddd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.749cabd81f5ffe8fba713d10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=39d2df6bddd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=39d2df6bddd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD)
- 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.749cabd81f5ffe8fba713d10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=39d2df6bddd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=39d2df6bddd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.749cabd81f5ffe8fba713d10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=39d2df6bddd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=39d2df6bddd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD)
Vote!
by Eileen Christelow
Lesson Plan:

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

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