



Lesson Plan: Local Politics Classroom Election

This lesson plan is designed to familiarize students with the candidates in the 2014 election for Santa Monica School Board. Begin the class with a short introductory lecture on the election itself (the date, the purpose of the school board, parental involvement, etc.) Next, browse through the various resources available on the ProCon.org [Santa Monica School Board election](#) website as a class. Be sure to show the students the [candidate match quiz](#), candidate profiles, position statements, and [side-by side comparison charts](#). As you go through the resources, explain the purpose of each one. Next, at individual computers, have students take the quiz and review their results. Then, divide the class up into small groups of 3-4 students. Provide each group with access to the site. Explain that each group should use their quiz results and the other available resources to determine which candidate to “vote” for. Their group should discuss this and attempt to form a consensus. Finally, hold a class election where each student submits a secret ballot for one candidate. Tally the results as a class. If desired, contact the winning candidate to give them the good news!

Modification (make it easier)

- Use the results of each group discussion as the vote for the whole group.
- Take the quiz as a class, explaining each issue and answering based on a show of hands. Whatever results the quiz provides determine the winner.

Enrichment (make it harder)

- Allow students additional time to research each candidate's campaign materials including commercials, debates, and websites.
- Have each group vote as one bloc, and submit a justification for their vote that they write together.

SOURCE: All standards referenced below are taken from the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSS) English Language Arts-Literacy Section (ELA-LITERACY). Please see <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/> for the full text of all Common Core standards.

HOW TO REFERENCE: To correctly reference Common Core content standards, insert the appropriate grade level between the content abbreviation and the standard number. (For example: RST.3 below would be written as RST.8.3 when referencing the version of the standard specific to 8th grade, and RST.9-10.3 would be written when referencing the grades 9 and 10 version of the standard.)

Common Core Anchor Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.3, CCRA.R.8, CCRA.SL.1, CCSSA, SL.2

Common Core Content Standards: RI.1, RI.3, RI.6, RI.9, SL.1, SL.2, SL.3, SL.4

Subjects: Social Studies, Public Policy, Civics, American Government, Communication, History

Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8, 9/10, 11/12

ProCon.org site(s): Santa Monica school board 2014