



MOCK ELECTION PREP PACKET

GRADES 6-8

Mock elections are an excellent way to prepare students to be active citizens. Before students participate in a mock election, it is necessary to provide the information and tools necessary for informed voting.

This packet includes lesson plans and activities that will prepare your students for the mock election by addressing the following learning outcomes:

1. Learn about the electoral process
2. Learn about issues and candidates
3. Learn the impact and importance of voting
4. Learn about the different functions of branches and levels of government
5. Further reading and research skills
6. Build voting habits

Each component of this packet will address one or more of the above learning outcomes. This is designed in a plug and play fashion where educators can choose as many or as few lessons/activities to incorporate in their classrooms.

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Lesson Plans and Activities

1) Are You Ready to Vote?

- **Description:** In this lesson, students will engage in a voting and elections Jeopardy style game and learn where to find the information necessary to participate in voting in an election.
- **Learning Outcomes:** (1) Build Habits of Voting, (2) Further reading and research skills

2) Cast Your Vote Game

- **Description:** This iCivics game simulates becoming an informed voter. Students will discover what it takes to become an informed voter — from knowing where they stand on important issues to uncovering what they need to know about candidates.
- **Learning Outcomes:** (1) Learn about issues and candidates, (2) Further reading and research skills, (3) Learn the impact and importance of voting

3) Candidate Evaluation

- **Description:** In this lesson, students evaluate hypothetical candidates by establishing and applying their own criteria for selecting public officials. Through a variety of activities, students assess candidates based on their qualifications, experience, campaign speeches and campaign materials.
- **Learning Outcomes:** (1) Learn about issues and candidates, (2) Learn about the functions of branches and levels of government, (3) Further reading and research skills

4) Candidate Report Card

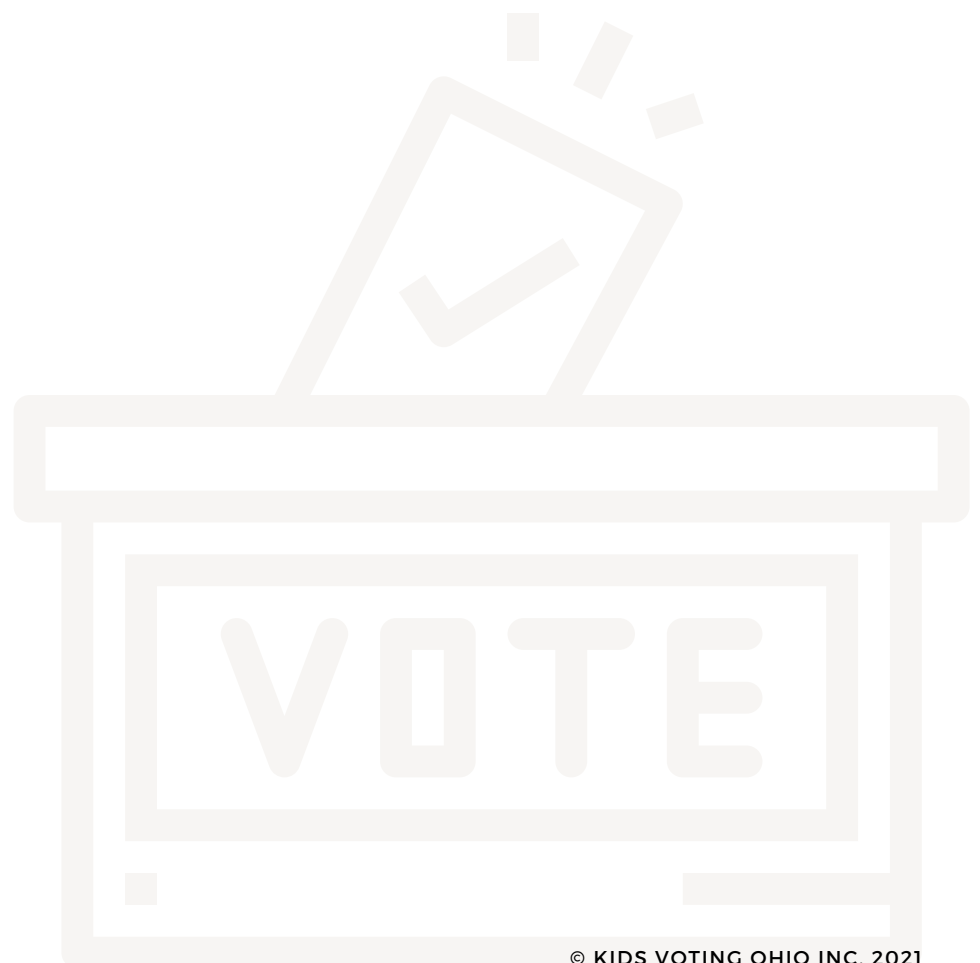
- **Description:** In this lesson, Students will select the issues and qualities they care about, then research candidates running for the office of your choice. Students will determine how the candidates rate, as they learn about the campaigns. This is a great extension activity for the Candidate Evaluation lesson plan, as well as an opportunity to bring current events into your classroom.
- **Learning Outcomes:** (1) Learn about issues and candidates, (2) Learn about the functions of branches and levels of government, (3) Further reading and research skills

5) Down-ballot voting and the role of local elections

- **Description:** This lesson covers the importance of local elections and ballot measures.
- **Learning Outcomes:** (1) Learn about the electoral process, (2) Learn about the functions of branches and levels of government

6) Meet Ohio's Elected Leaders

- **Description:** This lesson utilizes the KVO Meet Your Ohio Leaders Video Library to educate students about elected officials and their role in Ohio's government.
- **Learning Outcomes:** Learn about the functions of branches and levels of government





Are you ready to vote?

Objective

Students will go through the motions of preparing to vote in an election. Students will discover where to find election and ballot information.

Materials

- Are you ready to vote? [Jeopardy PowerPoint](#)
- A laptop, phone, or computer
- Election Prep worksheet
- Voting 101 Packet (for 11th and 12th grade students)

Instructions

- ❖ Have students play the Election Jeopardy Game.
 - Split class into teams of 3-4 players and task them with creating a team name.
 - This game will take 45 minutes to one hour to complete.
 - Remember to keep score or assign a designated score keeper.
 - Note: This is a difficult jeopardy game about voting and elections in Ohio. The second half of this lesson has students gather all the information to prepare them for the upcoming election. If you wish to change any jeopardy questions, simply create a copy of the game, and make any changes you wish. Instructions are on the 2nd slide.
- ❖ After the game, ask the class:
 - Why is voting important?
 - Is it necessary for voters to be informed before they cast their vote?
- ❖ Have students fill out the Election Prep Worksheet. This can be done individually, in class, in small groups, or as a homework assignment.
 - **Access to the internet is needed for this activity.
- ❖ For 11th and 12th grade only: Provide students with the Voting 101 Packet (electronic and print versions available).

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What did you learn from the Jeopardy Game and Election Prep Activity? Did anything you learn surprise you?
- ❖ Was it easy to find and the access information necessary to participate in the voting process? Why or why not?
- ❖ Do you think most American know this information? Does it serve as a barrier to voting?
- ❖ Do you think adults should be well-informed prior to voting?



Election Prep – Get all the information you need to cast your vote!

Keep in mind, while google is a great tool, not every search result will provide reliable information. Make sure your sources are reliable. Government websites are a great place to start!

❖ When is the next election in Ohio?

❖ Oh no! You're not registered to vote. When is the voter registration deadline?

The voter registration deadline is on _____. Ohioans must register to vote at least _____ days before the next election they wish to vote in.

❖ What are the three types of elections, when do they take place, and what is their purpose?

- General Elections:

- Primary Elections:

- Special Elections:

- ❖ What is absentee voting? Who is eligible to vote absentee in Ohio?

- ❖ What is a sample ballot? What purpose does it serve?

- ❖ As a registered voter, where would you find your sample ballot?

- ❖ What are partisan and nonpartisan elections? Do elected officials in your area run in partisan or nonpartisan elections or both?

- ❖ It's voting day! Where is your polling location? How do you find this information?

Need help finding answers? Check out these resources:

- ❖ The Secretary of State's Office – [Election Calendar](#)
- ❖ The Secretary of State's Office – [Absentee Voting](#)
- ❖ Ballotpedia Ohio – [Voting and Elections](#)
- ❖ The Secretary of State's Office – [View Your Sample Ballot](#)
- ❖ Ballotpedia – [Sample Ballot Lookup](#)
- ❖ The Secretary of State's Office – [Find My Polling Location](#)
- ❖ Your County Board of Elections' Website



Meet Ohio's Elected Leaders

Objective

This lesson utilizes the KVO Meet Your Ohio Leaders Video Library to educate students about elected officials and their role in Ohio's government.

Materials

A phone, tablet, or computer + internet access.

Instructions

- ❖ Write the following questions on the white board
 1. What is the role of a U.S. Congressional Representative?
 2. Can you name any of Ohio's Supreme Court Justices?
 3. What is a County Commissioner?
 4. What are some Mayoral responsibilities?
- ❖ Ask students to raise their hands if they know any of the answers. Record these answers on the board.
- ❖ Have students visit Kids Voting Ohio's Meet Your Ohio Leaders Video Library – <http://www.kidsvotingohio.org/video-library>
- ❖ Individual or in small groups, assign students to watch 3-4 videos (the videos range from 2 to 6 minutes). We suggest having students view a variety of videos from different branches and levels of government.
- ❖ While students are watching the videos, have them record notes on the provided worksheet.
- ❖ After students have watched videos, go through the discussion questions as a class or in small groups.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What did you learn about Ohio's government?
 1. What was the most interesting role?
 2. What's something new that you learned?

3. Were there any leaders that you recognized?
- ❖ If you ran for office, what would you want to run for?

Extension Activity: Have students write a letter to one of their elected leaders.

- ❖ After students have watched some videos, have them choose a local leader to write a letter or email to, asking them to submit a video to the library. This could be a city councilor, county commissioner, school board member, mayor, sheriff, etc.
- ❖ Student's letters should address the following
 1. Information about the student (name, home address or school address, grade level)
 2. Purpose for the letter – request for the elected leader to submit a video to the library so they (and other students) can learn more about local government and elected officials
 3. Information about participating – web address to the video library (there are instructions for participation at www.kidsvotingohio.org/meet-your-ohio-leaders)
 4. Thank you message and signature

This extension activity provides an avenue for students to discover who their elected officials are, learn how to contact elected officials, and learn more about the structure and functions of their local government.

Meet Ohio's Elected Leaders

Visit www.kidsvotingohio.org/video-library to view videos

Name & Position	Roles and Responsibilities	Why'd they run for office?