



RATE THE CANDIDATES

(45 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students carefully study the candidates to make a voting decision.

MATERIALS

My Concerns and the Issues in This Election handout; *Rate the Candidate's Experience* handout; *Rate the Candidates' Characteristics* handout

GET READY

- ✓ Copy *Rate the Candidates' Stands on the Issues*, *Rate the Candidate's Experience*, and *Rate the Candidates' Characteristics* for each student. You will need at least two copies of the *Rate the Candidate's Experience* handout for each student.
- ✓ Use the *Rate the Candidate's Experience* handout only if your students are rating presidential candidates, or adapt it to the race that your students are studying.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Lead students in a discussion on the differences between a candidate's characteristics, experience and qualifications, and stands on the issues, using some of the questions provided if appropriate.
- ✓ Help students find information to fill out the work sheets. This can include information on the candidates' stands on the issues and their personal characteristics and/or experience.
- ✓ Have your students share their opinions on the various candidates from their findings on the handouts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What are some characteristics of a good candidate?*
- ★ *What are some experiences and qualifications of a good candidate?*
- ★ *What are some stands on issues you have heard expressed?*
- ★ *Which of these three (characteristics, experience, stands) if any, are most important to consider when making a decision?*
- ★ *Could you make a wise voting decision based only on characteristics, stands, or experience? Or should you look at all three together?*
- ★ *Is there anything else you need to know to make a wise decision?*
- ★ *Is there anything you can do if your personal concerns are not issues in a campaign, but you feel they should be addressed?*

VOTE QUOTE

"It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers." –James Thurber



MY CONCERNS AND THE ISSUES IN THIS ELECTION

The major **issues** in this election are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

ISSUE 1

Candidate: _____ Stand: _____

Candidate: _____ Stand: _____

Candidate: _____ Stand: _____

The candidate I prefer here is: _____

ISSUE 2

Candidate: _____ Stand: _____

Candidate: _____ Stand: _____

Candidate: _____ Stand: _____

The candidate I prefer here is: _____

ISSUE 3

Candidate: _____ Stand: _____

Candidate: _____ Stand: _____

Candidate: _____ Stand: _____

The candidate I prefer here is: _____

If I made a decision based solely on the candidates' stands on this paper, I would vote for:



RATE THE CANDIDATE'S EXPERIENCE

Fill in the candidate's name, their experiences, and as many qualifications as you can find. Match any experience the candidate has had with the role to which it may apply. (Some may match more than one role.) Fill this form out for each candidate you are evaluating and then decide which candidate best fits the various roles of the president.

Candidate's Name	
Role Match	Candidate's Experience
<input type="text"/>	1.
<input type="text"/>	2.
<input type="text"/>	3.
<input type="text"/>	4.
<input type="text"/>	5.
<input type="text"/>	6.
<input type="text"/>	7.
<input type="text"/>	8.
<input type="text"/>	9.
<input type="text"/>	10.

ROLES OF THE PRESIDENT:

1. **HEAD OF STATE:** Hosts ceremonial activities and dinners for foreign dignitaries, gives medals, holds press conferences, makes official visits to other nations.
2. **CHIEF DIPLOMAT:** Proposes foreign policies, makes treaties, appoints ambassadors, participates in international meetings.
3. **COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** Commands the armed forces, appoints military leaders.
4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE:** Carries out laws, provides leadership to the executive branch, selects the Cabinet and the White House staff of advisers, recommends laws and budgets, signs or vetoes laws.
5. **PARTY CHIEF:** Campaigns for others in party, heads political party.

If I made a decision based solely on the candidate's experience, I would vote for:



RATE THE CANDIDATES

RATE THE CANDIDATES' CHARACTERISTICS

Write the names of two candidates in the spaces in the table on each side of the word "candidate," then write the office they are running for. Next, rate the candidates by placing a number from one to five in the spaces beside the characteristics listed, one being a poor rating and five being an excellent rating.

	◀ CANDIDATE ▶	
	◀ OFFICE ▶	
RATING: 1=POOR; 5=EXCELLENT	CHARACTERISTICS:	RATING: 1=POOR; 5=EXCELLENT
<input type="text"/>	BRAVE	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	CARING	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	COOPERATIVE	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	CURIOUS	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	FRIENDLY	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	HARD-WORKING	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	HONEST	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	SMART	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	HEALTHY	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	TOTAL	<input type="text"/>

If I made a decision based solely on the candidates' characteristics, I would vote for:
