

**IF I WERE...**

(20 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students consider the power of American democracy in action, making decisions as an elected leader would.

MATERIALS

If I Were... handout; additional lined paper; scissors, glue

GET READY

- ✓ Copy an *If I Were...* handout for each student. If possible, use colored paper.
- ✓ Have additional paper available for students to write on.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Ask, *In America can our leaders do whatever they want?* Listen to student responses.
- ✓ Next, ask, *What types of leaders do we have in America?* (president, vice president, governor, senator, etc.) *What are the jobs of these leaders?*
- ✓ Tell your students to imagine they were just elected to office. Ask, *What office would you want to hold? Governor? Senator? Mayor? President?*
- ✓ Provide each student with an *If I Were...* handout. Tell them to use this handout to brainstorm ideas of what they would do if elected to office.
- ✓ Allow your students to write their ideas on the handout. You can have the students work with each other to come up with ideas.

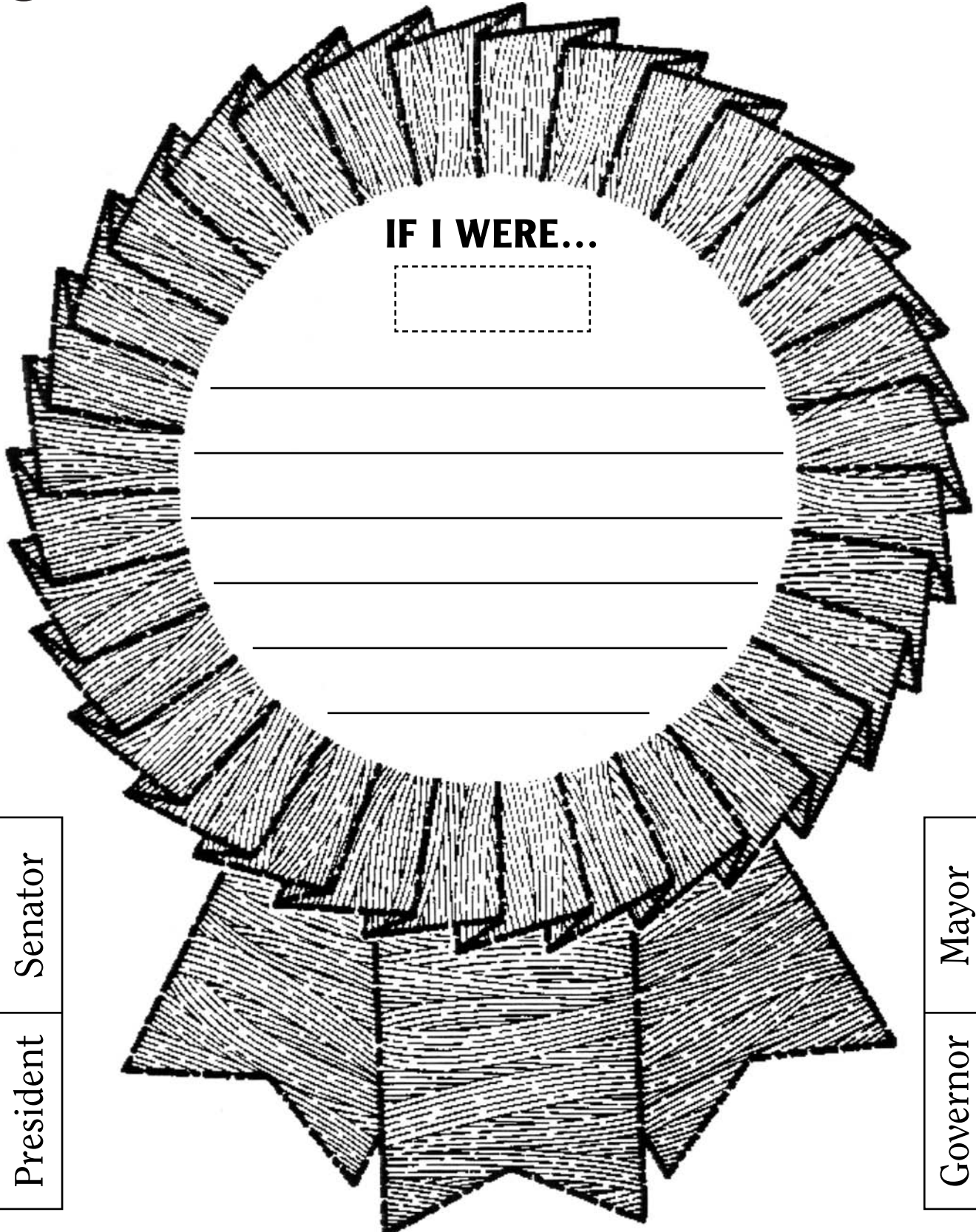
- ✓ Students can additionally cut out the position they want from the handout and either glue or tape it to what they write (see handout).
- ✓ Allow students to share their work.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What were some of the best ideas that we heard?*
- ★ *Did the ideas sound like they would be good for everyone? (Remember, leaders need to do their best for everyone.)*
- ★ *Think about the office you wrote about. Can you name a power this leader has?*
- ★ *Could you actually become this leader? What could you do to become a good leader?*



IF I WERE...



President
Senator

Governor
Mayor