



# Center for Civic Education

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## **Election Resources for Teachers**

### ***We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution Textbook***

#### Middle School level:

- Unit 3: “What Happened at the Philadelphia Convention?”  
Lesson 15, page 62, “How Should the President Be Selected?”
- The Constitution, Article II, Section I, Numbers 2-4, pages 152-154,  
“President and Vice-President: Election, Qualifications, and Oath and the  
Twelfth Amendment,” page 158

#### High School level:

- Unit 2: “How Did the Framers Create the Constitution?”  
Lesson 14, pages 76-77, “How Should Presidents Be Selected?” and group  
discussion questions
- Unit 3: “How Did the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution  
Shape American Institutions and Practices?”  
Lesson 18, page 92, “How Was the Constitution Used to Organize the New  
Government?”
- The Constitution, Article II, Section I, numbers 2-4, page 236, and the  
Twelfth Amendment, pages 240-241

### **Supplemental Material**

#### Freedom’s Answer

[www.freedomsanswer.net](http://www.freedomsanswer.net)

Freedom's Answer is a nonpartisan, nonprofit voter turnout campaign led by our nation's youth. It seeks voter pledges, not for parties or candidates, but to honor our servicemen and women overseas. Its goal is to educate the country’s youth and urge them to encourage their voting-age family and friends to get out and vote. Lesson topics include the following:

- Who can vote?
- How and what kinds of elections are conducted?
- A look at the voting process
- Heroes of suffrage
- The powers of the presidency
- Service learning for citizenship

Curriculum Lesson on the Electoral College: [http://www.freedomsanswer.org/PDF/FA\\_ElectoralCollege.pdf](http://www.freedomsanswer.org/PDF/FA_ElectoralCollege.pdf)

### The Federal Election Commission

[www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)

In 1975, Congress created the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to administer and enforce the Federal Election Campaign Act, the statute that governs the financing of federal elections. The duties of the FEC, which is an independent regulatory agency, are to disclose campaign finance information, to enforce the provisions of the law such as the limits and prohibitions on contributions, and to oversee the public funding of presidential elections. The website provides information on the following:

- Supporting candidates
- Volunteering for campaigns
- Campaign finance laws
- Voter registration
- The Electoral College

### The National Archives and Records Administration

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

The National Archives are a public trust that enables people to inspect for themselves the record of what government has done. It enables officials and agencies to review their actions and helps citizens hold them accountable. It ensures continuing access to essential evidence that documents the following:

- The rights of American citizens
- The actions of federal officials
- The historical documents that make up our national experience

### The Electoral College Web Page

[http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/electoral\\_college](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/electoral_college)

The Office of the Federal Register coordinates the functions of the Electoral College on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, the states, the Congress, and the American people. The office has assembled a variety of information and statistics on presidential elections past and present including the following:

Teaching With Documents Lesson Plan: Tally of the 1824 Electoral College Vote,  
[http://www.archives.gov/digital\\_classroom/lessons/electoral\\_college\\_tally\\_1824/electoral\\_college\\_tally\\_1824.html](http://www.archives.gov/digital_classroom/lessons/electoral_college_tally_1824/electoral_college_tally_1824.html)

The National Archives also serve as a link to the various Presidential libraries located across the country.

## Sample Lesson Plans

PBS “By the People, Election 2004”

<http://www.pbs.org/elections/kids/educators.html>

PBS has developed a website dedicated to this year’s election. Resources include a glossary of commonly used election terms, a calendar of election-related events and sample lesson plans that are available for integration into the classroom.

PBS Kids Democracy Project

<http://www.pbs.org/democracy/kids/>

The PBS Kids Democracy Project site was designed to be a useful, fun addition to the classroom during the election year and beyond. The activities and lesson plans on the site have been designed with the following goals in mind:

- To introduce the structure and duties of local, state and federal government
- To facilitate the understanding of how government affects our everyday lives, through laws, institutions and services provided in the community
- To identify the duties of the U.S. president and encourage critical thinking about the skills necessary to be a good president
- To facilitate understanding of the history of voting rights in America, and articulate how voting and other forms of civic involvement are essential to a healthy democracy

New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/elections.html>

The Learning Network has developed lesson plan units that use recent New York Times articles as springboards for examining important curricular topics in interesting and exciting ways. Use these lessons in your classroom or share them with teachers in other content areas to collaborate on interdisciplinary units. The lessons are listed in reverse chronological order, from the most recent to the least recent, based on the date on which they were published on the Learning Network.

The Constitutional Rights Foundation “Election Central”

[http://www.crf-usa.org/election\\_central/election\\_central.htm](http://www.crf-usa.org/election_central/election_central.htm)

Constitutional Rights Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, community-based organization dedicated to educating America's young people about the importance of civic participation in a democratic society. For the 2004 Election they have developed *Election Central*, an online resource that helps teachers and students explore the electoral process in the past and present in the United States and around the world. *Election Central* is divided into five sections:

- The Electoral Process
- Who Are the Candidates?
- The Media and the Election
- Online Lesson: Political Parties, Platforms and Planks

- Take Action

#### CNN Student News

<http://cnnstudentnews.cnn.com/fyi/>

CNN has developed a website geared toward students and teachers that allows them to gain knowledge about events occurring in the world with integrated lesson plans to enhance understanding and comprehension of the topics. Additionally, there are links to specific election web pages as well as a lesson on understanding the Electoral College process, which can be found at

<http://www.cnn.com/fyi/interactive/news/10/election.special/teachers/bg.6.html>

#### Scholastic: Online Activities

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/election2004/>

Scholastic, committed to understanding the needs and feelings of children, celebrating their hopes and dreams, and supporting parents and teachers by being the most trusted name in learning, has developed a website to attract the attention and gain the interest of young students as the 2004 presidential election approaches.

#### The Lesson Plans Page

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/>

*The Lesson Plans Page* is a collection of over 2,000 lesson plans, designed primarily for the elementary level, that were developed by Kyle Yamnitz, students, and faculty at The University of Missouri. More recent lesson plans were submitted by the users of the website. Launched in October of 1996, *The Lesson Plans Page* was developed to assist educators of all types from elementary school to college. Specific lessons from this website that correlate with the election year are:

- Candidates on the Road: <http://www.lessonplanspage.com/Campaignlesson2.htm>
- Classroom Campaigns: <http://www.lessonplanspage.com/ssClassroomCampaigns.htm>
- Covering the Campaign: <http://www.lessonplanspage.com/ssCoveringCampaign.htm>

#### A to Z Teacher Stuff

<http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/>

A to Z Teacher Stuff is created by teachers, and designed to help teachers find online resources more quickly and easily. The website offers lesson plans, thematic units, teacher tips, teacher discussion forums, downloadable teaching materials, printable pages, themes, and more. Additionally there are lessons geared directly toward the upcoming election.

- The Electoral College: <http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/go/jump2.cgi?ID=1030>
- Donkeys and Elephants and Voters, Oh My!: [www.atozteacherstuff.com/go/jump2.cgi?ID=1029](http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/go/jump2.cgi?ID=1029)
- Election Results Map: <http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/go/jump2.cgi?ID=1026>