

Navigate Post-Election Classroom Discussions




This election is an opportunity

for educators to facilitate constructive dialogue among students and promote engagement across diverse perspectives. In [Navigating Social Issues in the Classroom: A Toolkit for Educators as Community Bridge Builders](#), we offer middle and high school teachers and administrators a range of strategies and resources designed to collaborate with students in fostering an inclusive school environment that affirms, honors, and respects various identities and viewpoints.

[Generation Citizen's Teacher Leadership Board members](#) used the Framework for Educators as Community Bridge-Builders to plan their post-election classroom discussions. These lessons are flexible examples of how you might Prepare, Build, and Engage. We encourage you to adapt the lessons to meet the needs of your school community.

Be sure to visit [GC Connect! Educator Resource Hub](#) for additional resources.

Framework for Educators as Community Bridge-Builders			
	Phase 1: Prepare	Phase 2: Build	Phase 3: Engage
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess school context and your own role Plan for and develop content knowledge Coordinate and communicate proactively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultivate caring relationships and community Build student skills Build personal skills and your facilitator role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose from structured discussions and activities Empathize and pivot as needed Balance tensions between free expression and civil dialogue
Administrators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a shared vision of the curriculum and classroom culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a communication protocol for internal and external stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in professional development and internal supports
Caregivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate with caregivers early on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be proactive and intentional about building positive and collaborative relationships with families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridge with caregivers by cultivating respect and empathy



Lee Sturm-Guidry's Plan to Navigate Post-Election Classroom Discussions

Overview	<p>Suggested Grade Level: High School Approximate Time: Three 45-minute class periods.</p>		
	<p>Student Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amend the Class Constitution to ensure all voices are heard and honored. ● Create a personal goal to implement a norm from the Class Constitution. ● Describe the electoral process in general elections. ● Compare the popular vote with the Electoral College to elect government officials. ● Explain how a candidate can be elected without receiving the majority of the popular vote. 		
	Prepare	Build	Engage
Student	<p>How do we engage in our democracy?</p> <p>Monday, Nov 4th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review and/or amend the Class Constitution ● Review how to check voter status and look at sample ballots. ● Reminder about civic participation (18-year-olds, first-time voters, and non-eligible voters options for civic participation) <p>Take Action Resources go beyond the ballot</p>	<p>Why did the Founders create this system, and does it still work today?</p> <p>Nov 4th Electoral College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● US Election Assistance Commission 	<p>What does election day <i>really</i> look like?</p> <p>If there is no decision on Nov 6th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue the research based on US Election Assistance Commission readings ● Include student lived experience (What did you see, hear, or do on election day about the election?) <p>When the results are final: What next? “The political process doesn’t end on election day.”</p> <p>Discuss the connections between state/local elections and our GC project.</p>

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<p>Admin</p>	<p>Social media post – PSA for community civic participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussing elections at home • Election Day off school • Check voter status • Early voting locations • Same-day voting • Poll Worker Resources 	<p>Encourage all eligible faculty/staff to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote and model civic engagement for students • Engage in thoughtful classroom discussions about the election • Review: Navigating Social Issue Discussions in the Classroom: A Toolkit for Educators as Community Bridge Builders 	<p>Another post about Election Day off of school, civic participation.</p> <p>Post families at polling locations.</p>
<p>Caregivers</p>	<p>Send home a flier with family voting information.</p> <p>Support discussing elections when your position is similar to or different from your child's.</p>		<p>Send in photos of families at polling locations.</p>

Kelly Preston's Plan to Navigate Post-Election Classroom Discussions

Overview	<p>Suggested Grade Level: High School Approximate Time: Two 60-minute class periods.</p> <p>Student Learning Objectives: By the end of this lesson, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amend the Class Constitution to ensure all voices are heard and honored. ● Reflect on their relationship to and perspective on a complex topic. ● Build additional knowledge necessary to identify reliable information. ● Identify ways to take informed action and become civically engaged beyond the ballot. 		
	Prepare	Build	Engage
Student	<p>How will I (as the teacher) engage in our democracy?</p> <p>Navigating Social Issues Toolkit: Teacher Reflection Prompts, p. 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What emotions does the election raise for you? ● What perspectives will you bring to your reflection on the election with your students? ● How can you support students with various perspectives in your class reflection? ● As the news around the election develops, how will you continue to learn alongside your students? ● Are there any students who 	<p>What do you know and need to know? What is the impact of this event?</p> <p>Build student and teacher content knowledge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2024Election: ProCon.org ● NewsELA, ● CNN10 ● RumorGuard News Literacy Project <p>Individual student reflections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facing History & Ourselves: Head, Heart, Conscience 	<p>What informed action can you take to help decrease voting barriers in your community?</p> <p>Take Action: Removing Voting Barriers</p> <p>Middle and high school students analyze historical and contemporary examples of barriers to voting and brainstorm ways to advocate for greater access to voting for all. They will start by discussing the implications of voting—why does voting matter? What impact does voting have on our lives? Then, students will learn about historic and contemporary barriers to voting and how civic participation and advocacy helped overcome those barriers. Utilizing this knowledge, students will</p>

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might benefit from one-on-one follow-up from you or another staff member at your school?

[National Education Association's \(NEA\) Know Your Rights FAQ](#) informs educators about their rights and protections regarding censorship and conversations about racism, sexism, and historical prejudice.

Additional US Election Lessons

- [Facing History & Ourselves: Teaching Resources for US Elections](#)

learn from local experts how to participate in advocacy to overcome these barriers and increase access to safe voting in the next local election.

Kerri Furtado's Plan to Navigate Post-Election Classroom Discussions

Overview	<p>Suggested Grade Level: Middle School Approximate Time: Two 45-minute class periods.</p>		
	<p>Student Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the Class Constitution to ensure all voices are heard and honored. Describe the milestones in the electoral process from election day to inauguration day. Reflect on feelings that may arise if their candidate does not win. 		
	Prepare	Build	Engage
Student	<p>How do we engage in our democracy?</p> <p>Review and/or amend the Class Constitution</p> <p>Since middle school-aged students are ineligible to vote, GC's Take Action Resources go beyond the ballot.</p>	<p>What is the process from election day to inauguration day?</p> <p>Provide an overview of the process and highlight interesting facts.</p> <p>Slide Deck: From Election Day to Inauguration Day (This link will prompt you to make a copy.)</p>	<p>What happens if your candidate doesn't win?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Journaling Turn & Talk Group Discussion