

***Running for President – The Politics of Elections Teacher’s Guide**

Introduction

I hope you and your class enjoy the simulation. To be as thorough as possible, and to mirror, where practical, what a real candidate would have to do, this simulation contains many in-class activities. Feel free to delete, change or add to them. Within each section I’ve also included the student instructions.

Objectives

- Give students hands-on experience in what candidates do during election campaigns.
- Help students understand the electoral process.
- Promote discussion, interest and understanding about current issues.
- Demonstrate how the electoral college works.

II Registering to Vote

Student Instructions

What is it like to run for president? How does a campaign work? You’ll find out as your class participates in “Running For President – The Politics of Elections.”

Your teacher will pass out the Voter Registration forms used in your state. You must register as a Democrat, a Republican, or any other designation listed on the Voter Registration form. Once registered, you will be assigned to vote in a specified region of the country.

Obtain the voter registration forms used in your state. Have students fill them out and designate the political party of their choice. Once students have registered, assign them to a region of the country as follows:

- Use the maps and the accompanying “Electoral College Region” charts, which divide the country into regions and show the number of electoral college votes in each one.
- Pick the number of regions that works for your class.
- Assign students to every region of the country. This is how you have votes for the Electoral College. Assign more students to the more populous regions. If there is a dominant political party in a region, assign mostly students in that party to the region (for example, mostly Republicans in the South and the West, and mostly Democrats in New England and on the Pacific coast).

III Candidate and Campaign Workers Instructions

Just as in the real world, anyone who wants to, should be allowed to run for president. Encourage outspoken students to run. Candidates then enlist students to work on the campaign in the following positions: Finance Chair, Media Guru, Polltaker, Webmaster, Newspaper reporter, Fundraiser, Speech writer, etc. Also your candidates need to decide what their platform issues are, and what their stances are on those issues.

** Excerpted and abbreviated*