

Roles of Government, Responsibilities of Citizens

Enduring Understanding

All communities have a government that creates and enforces rules and procedures to maintain order and provide safety for their citizens.

Essential Questions

Why do we hold elections?

What is the importance of symbols?

What are the purposes of government?

Students shall be able to:

C.4.1.1 — Understand that government is an organized form of rules and procedures

C.4.1.2 — Explain the importance of government in the classroom and school

C.5.1.1 — Identify and discuss national symbols that represent American democracy:

- *American flag*
- *Bald Eagle*
- *Statue of Liberty*
- *White House*
- *United States Constitution*

C.5.1.2 — Demonstrate the rights and responsibilities of being a good citizen (e.g. politeness, reliability, fairness, honesty, patriotism)

C.5.1.3 — Discuss the voting process as it relates to an election

C.5.1.4 — Demonstrate the appropriate procedures for reciting the Pledge of Allegiance:

- *Standing up straight*
- *Placing the right hand over heart*
- *Removing hats*
- *Observing location of the flag*

Materials Needed/Attachments

- *art supplies*
- *flag die cuts or stencils*

Attachment 1: Sample ballot

Vocabulary

ballot

rules

mascot

ballot box

symbol

election

tally

minority

majority

returns

paper

vote

Teaching Strategies

1. Discuss: What is voting? How do we vote in the classroom? What kinds of decisions and choices do we make by voting? What is an election? Demonstrate to students how to make their own paper ballots. Instruct students to take out a plain piece of paper and write “BALLOT” at the top as shown (*Attachment 1*). Demonstrate this to students. Then ask students to indicate the choices by either pasting pictures, drawing pictures, or writing the words. Next, have students place a square beside each item from which they have to choose. Follow this activity by having students place an “X” in the box next to the item for which they are voting. Have them place the ballots in a box.
2. Students tally the votes. Students can also demonstrate returns by making a paper chain, paper doll chain, or people chain (students standing in a line) of the minority and majority votes. (Each paper link or person in a chain represents one vote.)
3. Discuss the concept of symbol. What does a school mascot symbolize? Brainstorm names for the school mascot or choices for a class mascot. Narrow the choices to two or three. Have students make a ballot and vote for their choice. Use a visual (tally, graph, chain) to display the results of the election.
4. What does the American flag symbolize? What do the stripes and stars of the American flag symbolize? Construct a American flag from an available source, e.g. die cuts, handprints, stencils. Demonstrate the appropriate procedures for reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Discuss the concept of government. How do rules and procedures for the classroom and for the school make your school orderly and safe? Write an individual or class thank-you note(s) to a person who helps keep the school safe and orderly.

Assessments/Rubrics

Informal observation

Teacher-created thank-you note rubric

BALLOT