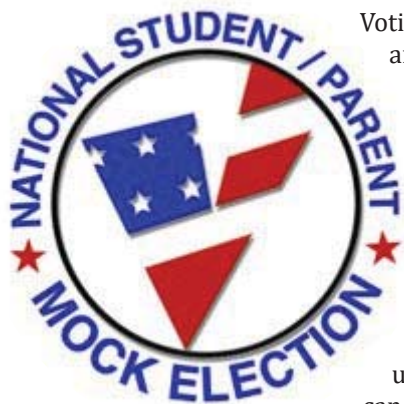


Election 2016

Making an Informed Decision

Voting in an election is a great responsibility. Registered voters will soon be selecting people to represent them at the local, state and federal levels of government. But, how does one decide who to vote for? Start by getting informed.



Voting selections should be based on one's position on important issues and on the qualities, skills and experience of the individuals running for public office.

Specific issues might include topics like the economy, education, the environment, immigration, social justice and so on. Government actions affecting these topics could have a lasting impact on the local community, state, nation or world.

All forms of media are used by political parties and candidates to sway potential voters during elections. Increasingly, social media is used by candidates to connect with the voting public. These messages can be a good way to get to know more about a given candidate and his or her views. However, much depends on who is actually posting. Is the information real? What is the source? Is any of it verifiable?

By contrast, professional journalists follow a system and set of standards to try to ensure that what they report is verifiable, accurate and transparent by using multiple and reliable sources. This gives newspapers a higher level of trust and accountability for their readers/viewers. In print or online, newspapers continue to be one of the most in-depth sources of news and information on the issues

Newspaper Activities : Imagine you're an investigative reporter. Read, watch, listen and learn about the issues in the upcoming election. Which issues are the most important to you and your future? Research where each candidate stands on these issues. Then using the same style as a newspaper editorial, write which candidate you would vote for and why.

Political cartoons are created to make people laugh and *think*. Search the newspaper for recent editorial/political cartoons concerning the election, issues or candidates. Select one and be prepared to explain the cartoonist's meaning, use of symbolism, humor, irony and analogy. Did the editorial cartoons you viewed change your mind about anything concerning the election?

while providing forums for discussion and debate. News articles, editorials, letters to the editor, political cartoons and political advertising all play a role in informing voters about the positions each candidate takes on important issues.

For more lessons on the election or to register students to participate in a national mock election go to <http://nationalmockelection.org/>. This year the National Student Parent Mock Election voting takes place online anytime between Oct. 24 and Nov. 3, 2016!

Additional resources: ProCon.org is a non-profit, nonpartisan group offering a side-by-side comparison of where 2016 presidential candidates stand dozens of issues.

Cartoons for the Classroom (<http://nieonline.com/aaec/cftc.cfm>) sponsored by the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists offers lessons, every two weeks, using current editorial/political cartoons.

iCivics (icivics.org/election_resources_2016) a collection of resources including an upgraded *Win the White House 2016* online game!

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