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A Lesson on Learn about Elections by Kelsey Mangine

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: elections, vote, register, Vocabulary, Discussion

Lesson Description: This lesson's goal is to have students read and write critically. Students will be asked to read a short passage and respond in discussion questions that will require students to reread the passage. Students will also learn new vocabulary words through reading and rereading the passage. Students will read the story "Learn About Elections". This lesson may be split into two days.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.1d: Review the key ideas expressed and draw conclusions in light of information and knowledge gained from the discussions

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Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Learn about Elections

by

Content: In the last Presidential election, students at one school made a great difference. They got people registered to vote. To be able to vote, you need to be 18 years old. And you need to be a registered voter. It is easy to register. You bring something that shows you live in the community. You can bring a bill. You can bring a drivers license.

Many people do not register to vote. Why dont they register? Some people think that their vote is not important.

The seventh grade class at the school learned about what is called voter apathy. Apathy means not caring. They learned that in their own community there were many people who were not registered to vote. They wanted to change that. They said they would like to vote, but since they were not old enough they wanted to get other people to vote.

They started a campaign. They would get more people registered to vote. They made a plan. They would begin by getting people in their families registered. Then they would get parents of other students to register.

Their teacher called the Registrars Office. That is the part of government that gets people registered. The teacher asked if they would send a registrar to the school on the schools open house day. A registrar is a person who registers voters. That way people could register to vote while they were at the school. The answer was yes. A registrar came.

That day, 172 people registered to vote. The students were proud. But they had more to do. So they went and talked with students in other classes. They asked the students to tell their families how important it was to register to vote.

Then they held another registration day. This time, 102 more people registered to vote. They came to the school again. People were getting excited about the election.

After the election, the students were proud. They could not vote. But they had made sure that more people were registered. And they had reminded them to vote. They were sure they had made a difference.

Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: apathy **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "The seventh grade class at the school learned about what is called voter apathy." What does the word "apathy" mean in this sentence?

- A: A story
- B: details
- C: lack of interest
- D: lack of skill

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "apathy" correctly?

- A: There is a growing "apathy" among a few boys in middle school which is very harming to the house.
 - B: Today in class we read a long "apathy".
 - C: The students were forced to choose between pizza and "apathy" at lunch.
 - D: The boy felt a strong sense of "apathy" after getting all the questions correct.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: important **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "Some people think that their vote is not important." What does the word "important" mean in this sentence?

- A: smart
- B: impressive
- C: useless
- D: significant

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "important" correctly?

- A: Did you see Jimmies new shoes? There were "important" from china.
 - B: Do you have any idea how "important" your test grades are?
 - C: Dont bring a jacket, its "important" outside today.
 - D: On our way to Mississippi we began to get hungry so we stopped for an "important".
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: community **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "it is easy to register. You bring something that shows you live in the community." What does the word "community" mean in this sentence?

- A: country
- B: apartments
- C: A group of people occupying a given area.
- D: gymnasium

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "community" correctly?

- A: The Cheez-its had a community taste.
 - B: I own a community of different DVDs.
 - C: Tonight all the people in the community joined together for a town meeting.
 - D: We had a long community back into town.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: campaign **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "They started a campaign. They would get more people registered to vote. They made a plan." What does the word "campaign" mean in this sentence.

- A: A plan designed to produce a particular result.
- B: riot
- C: career
- D: dance

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "campaign" correctly.

- A: The fish love to swim in
 - B: The flowers in my garden grow in a
 - C: The dogs run in
 - D: By the end of the 4 month
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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - To Vote or Not to Vote

The passage states that many people do not register to vote...some people think that their vote is not important. Why do you think people feel their vote is not important? Use details from the passage to support your answer. Give your own examples on why they may not want to vote.

2 - Voting Age

The students campaigning to get people to register to vote are not old enough and this is upsetting to them. Why do you think it isn't appropriate for people under the age of 18 to be able to vote in elections? Give examples.

3 - Register Yourself

When you turn 18, are you going to register to vote? Discuss why you will or will not register.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write a paragraph explaining why you think the seventh graders feel so strongly about voting and registering to vote. What made them so proud? Make sure to provide specific examples to support your opinion. 400 words minimum.

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