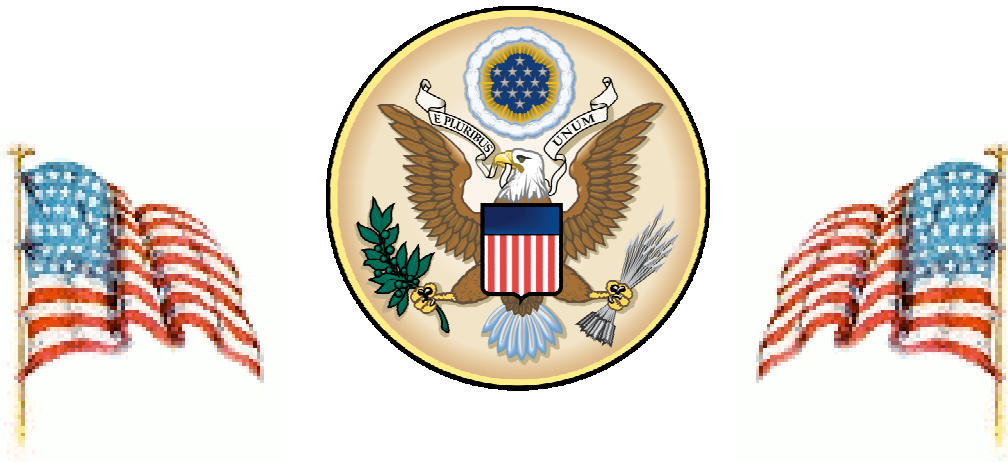


NotebookLearning.com
presents

The Election of a President

Lap Book Folder Kit



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Instructions for various Lap Book Folder elements

Welcome to NotebookLearning's "The Election of a President" lap book folder and study guide! We hope that you and your family will learn a lot while you go through this study, and will find the following pages easy to use while putting together your folder. Here are the instructions for the printable elements you will find in this study:

1. Cover page – Print out and glue to either the back of your folder (it will not need cutting this way) or to the front of the folder; if you glue to the front, you will need to then carefully cut down the middle, following the line of the folder edges.
2. Tabbed flap books – Print, cut along the outer lines, then fold down the middle, leaving the title section visible. Cut the smaller lines down to the fold only. On each fold, write a vocabulary word, question or phrase that matches what will be under the flap. For example, on the "Presidential Qualifications" flap books, you will probably want to use "Citizenship", "Age" and "Residency" on the outside. On the inside, you will then place the proper answers. (In this case, "Born a citizen of the U.S.", "35 or older", and "Have lived in the U.S. for at least 14 years".) Glue the flap book in place
3. Mini folders – Print, cut out along the outer lines, then fold inward along the dashed lines. The two outer flaps should meet in the exact middle. Use the inside for writing or drawing.
4. Candidate vs. Candidate folded page – First print the "Candidate vs. Candidate" page. Turn the paper over to the blank side and put it back in the printer, with the same top edge as before. Now print the "Venn Diagram" page on the back. Cut out the entire large square. Fold along the top-to-bottom dashed line first, then along both of the side-to-side dashed lines. Fill out the paper with the names of two candidates and their platforms, using the Venn diagram on the inside to compare differences and similarities between the candidates. Glue the back portion to your folder (the gluing area is marked) and use the small folded portion as a closing tab. Simply tuck it behind the body of the folded paper. Your page will now resemble a matchbook.
5. Mini-book covers – If you choose to make folded mini-books, we have provided several pre-printed covers that you might wish to use for one or more of them. Just print, cut and glue to the front of your mini-book.
6. Candidate or vocabulary pockets – These are intended for use with 3x5 index cards. Print the pocket, preferably on card stock, then cut out. Cut out the corners made by the dashed lines. Fold on the dashed lines and fold the tabs under. Carefully glue the tabs in place in your folder. After it has dried, fill the pocket with 3x5 index cards that have been filled out. (If you wish to use a pocket for something besides candidates or vocabulary words, simply turn the pocket over with the picture to the inside; nobody will be able to see it.)
7. Square-to-triangle printables – Print and cut the square. Fold along each dashed line, opening the square again between each fold. Holding the square in both hands, gently bring the two sides together in the back until the ends of the middle dashed line are touching. The triangles should start forming on their own; just fold them down until you have created a folded triangle. The title will be the top triangle.

The opposite side will be glued to the folder. The non-printed side of the square can be written or drawn in, and unfolded to present the entire square.

8. Small one-fold books – Print, cut out, write in the inside of the book, then glue the back to your folder.

9. “Political Zoo” accordion-fold book – Print and cut out only the outside edges, leaving all the panels connected. Fold along the connecting lines in an accordion fashion. (You may find it easier to fold all of the lines in the same direction to begin with, then alternate them in a zig-zag.) Mark the back of the booklet where you will be gluing it into the folder so that you don’t write on that panel. On the remaining panels, label with the following terms: Donkey, Elephant, Underdog, Dark Horse, Sacrificial Lamb, Lame Duck and Pork Barreling. You will need both sides of the booklet. Have your student write a brief explanation of each term as they apply to politics.

10. Election Timeline – Cut out each larger block. For an accordion fold book, tape the end of the first block to the beginning of the second block, then fold in a fan. Fill in the highlights of the election process for each month. For an accordion book this size, you will probably need to hold it shut with a paper clip. Alternatively, you could just cut out each panel, fill them in, and put them in a pocket inside your folder.

11. Coloring page – A fun coloring page with a cartoon version of the Republican elephant and Democratic donkey is included for younger siblings who might need busy-work while older students are working on their folder project.

12. Map – A map of the United States has been included. There are several things you can use the map for; you may want to print several. Write in primary/caucus results as they come in, write in the number of votes in the final election, color the states by red or blue to show which party won the electorates in the final election, and so on. If folded side-to-side in fourths, or in thirds from top to bottom, these will fit inside one of the index card pockets – simply turn the printed side inward.

13: Fact or Opinion diamond – Cut out the large square, then fold the triangle points inward so that all of the statements are visible. Have your student answer underneath each point. With all of the points folded inward, fold one more time above the words “Fact or Opinion?” to form a folded rectangle. Glue in place.

14. Political process step booklet – Cut out each block and fill in, leaving enough room at the top to staple the booklet. Line up all the top edges, leaving the bottom edges “stepped” in order. Staple, and glue into your folder.



*The
Election
Of
A
President*



<p>What are the qualifications for the Presidency?</p>		

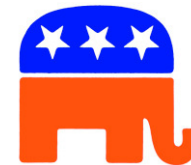
		<p>P R E S I D E N T I A L Q U A L I F I C A T I O N S</p>

		V
		O
		C
		A
		B
		U
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		A
		R
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Democrats



Republicans



Pros

And

Cons

The

Electoral

College

Candidate

VS.

Candidate

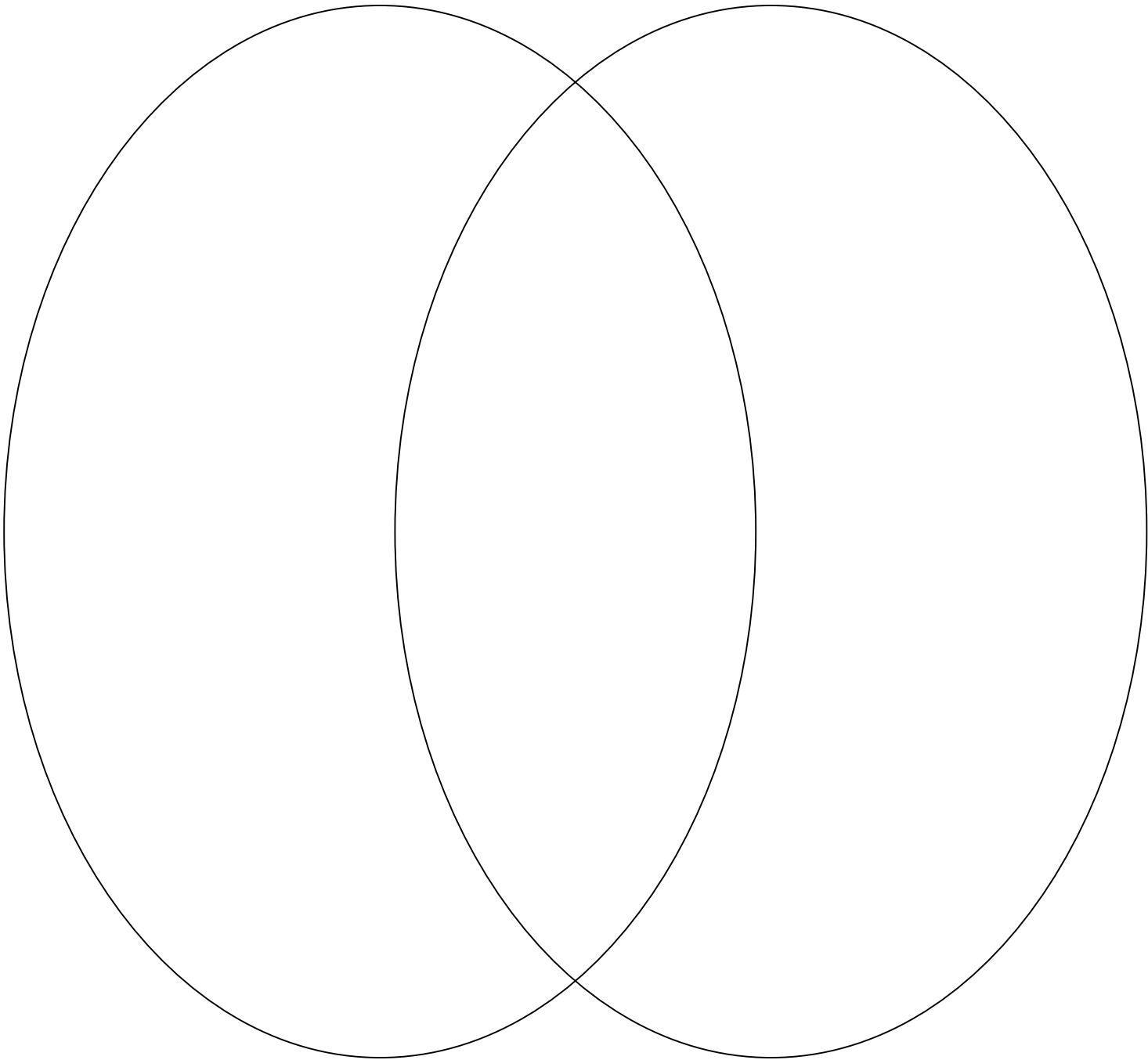
Platform:

Candidate: _____

Glue within these boundaries. Do not
go outside the lines.

Platform:

Candidate: _____



*The
Candidates*

*The
Electoral
College*

*My
Favorite
Candidate*

*Political
Definitions*

*What
Are
Democrats?*

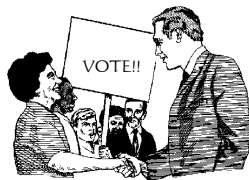
*What
Are
Republicans?*

*Why
Should
Everyone
Vote?*

*What
Makes
A
Good
President?*

The

Candidates

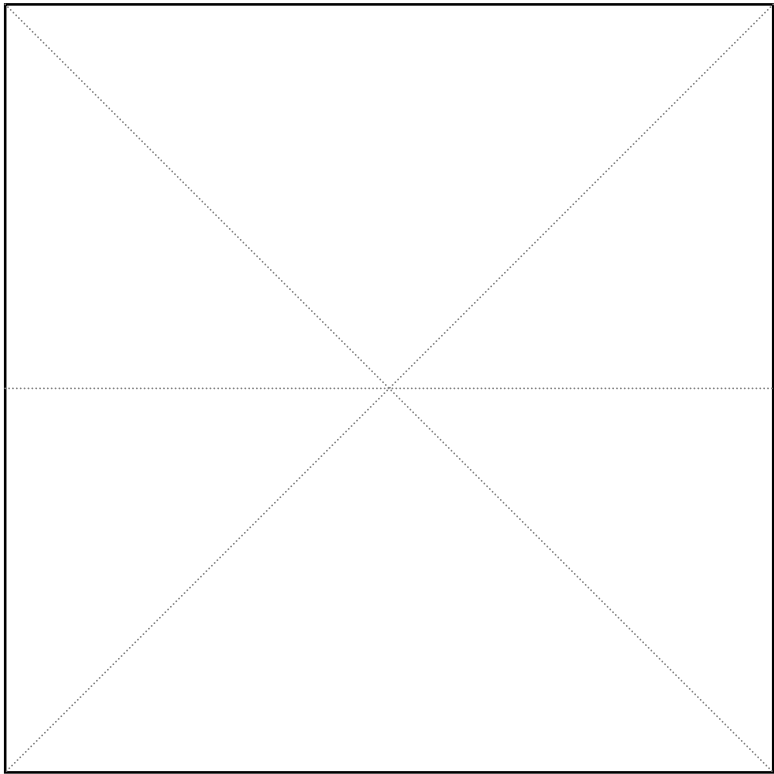


Vocabulary

Voting Is Important



This triangle will be
glued to the folder.

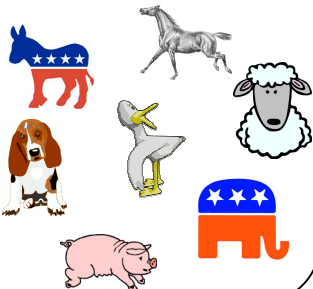


*The
Oath
of
Office*

*What
Is
A
Caucus?*

*If
I
Became
President...*

*Politics
Can
Be
A
Real
Zoo!*

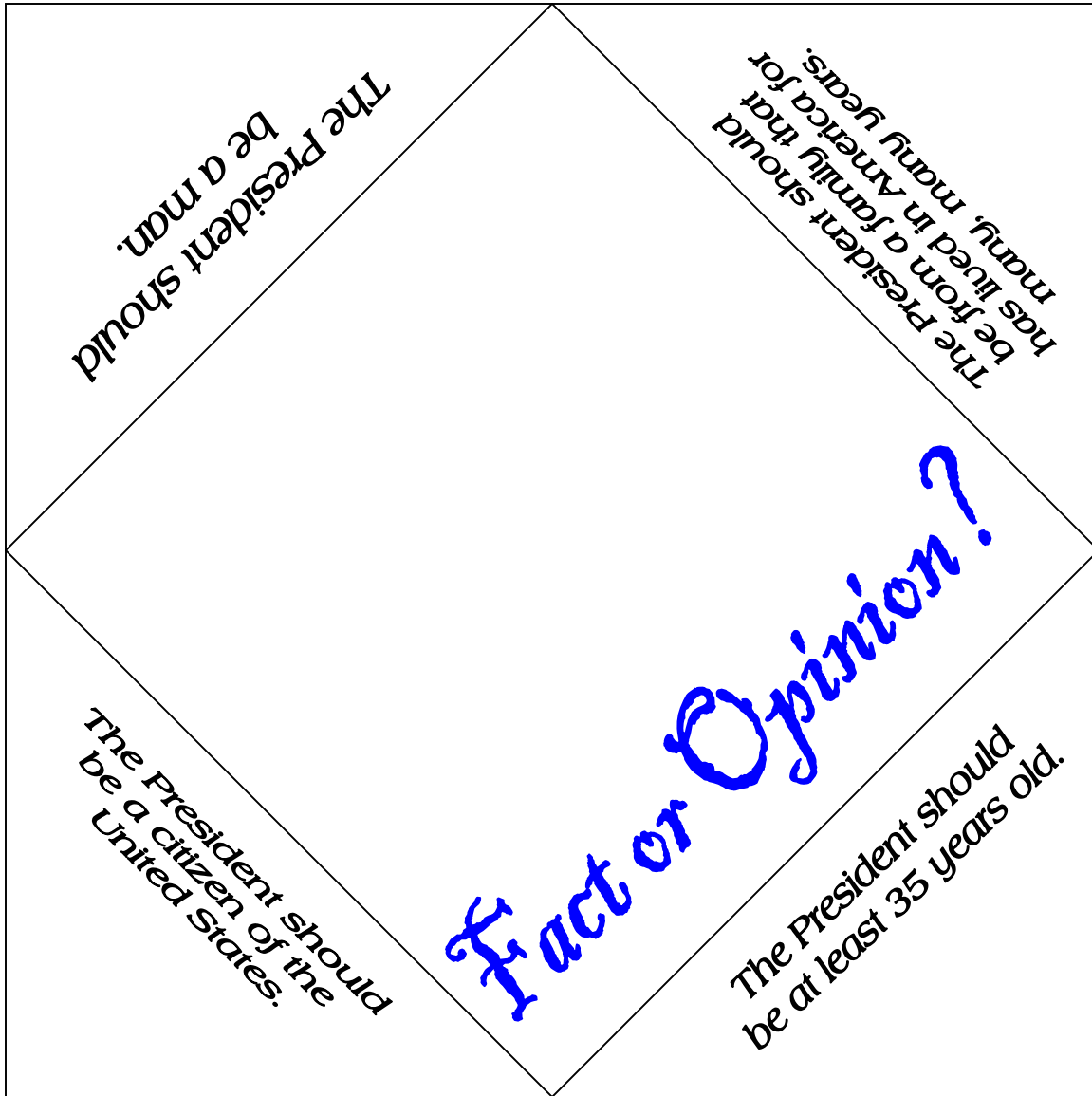


<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <i>Election Timeline</i> </div>	<i>January 2008</i>	<i>February 2008</i>	<i>March 2008</i>	<i>April 2008</i>	<i>May 2008</i>	<i>June 2008</i>

<i>July 2008</i>	<i>August 2008</i>	<i>September 2008</i>	<i>October 2008</i>	<i>November 2008</i>	<i>December 2008</i>	<i>January 2009</i>







The President should be a man.

The President should be from a family that has lived in America for many, many years.

The President should be a citizen of the United States.

The President should be at least 35 years old.

Fact or Opinion?

*Parts
Of
The
Election
Process*

Caucuses

Primaries

Campaigning

National Election

Electoral College

Study Guide

Math

Math skills from simple addition up to complicated percentages can be included in a study of elections. Here are some ideas:

- * Have your younger students add up the totals for one area's voting, by candidate, to determine the total number of votes cast. Use subtraction skills by giving a total number of votes and subtracting one candidate's votes to determine the number left.
- * Create graphs or pie charts comparing various candidates. Use number of votes cast, percentages, etc.
- * Have older students determine the percentage of votes per candidate based only the number of votes cast.
- * Study opinion polls and how they work. Discuss the +/- variations that are included in the results.
- * Younger students can brush up on greater than/less than skills by comparing vote totals.

Qualifications

There are only three qualifications for the Presidency: the candidate must be at least 35 years old, must be a natural-born citizen of the U.S. and must have lived here for at least 14 years. Discuss the reasons for each of these qualifications. Look up the controversies on whether a person is considered a "natural-born" citizen if they were born on foreign soil to American parents. Debate whether or not any of these qualifications should be dropped or changed.

Democrats versus Republicans – and Independents, too

Research the various political parties that have existed during American history, especially the two current major parties. What does each party typically stand for and believe in? When you hear the name "Democrat" or "Republican", what immediately comes to mind? Discuss whether candidates typically follow every belief of the "party line", and what happens when they do go against something that the majority of the party wants. Why do we have a two-party system? What happens when a serious third party candidate manages to procure a large amount of the vote?

Campaigning

Campaigning is what allows the public to get to know each candidate and learn their positions on the issues. Research historical campaigns and discuss what did and did not work for various candidates. Learn what goes into a typical candidate's campaign and talk about whether or not you would like to live through a campaign for office. Have your students look up common political phrases and learn what they mean, such as: mud-slinging, spin and spin doctors, swift-boating and any other phrases you may come across while reading.

Vocabulary

Nominate	Demographic
Elector	Election
Faithless Elector	Electorate
Disenfranchisement	Executive
Nomination	Independent
Incumbent	Party
Democracy	Platform
Absentee	Politics
Ballot	President
Campaign	Primary
Candidate	Republican
Caucus	Ticket
Democrat	Voting

Caucuses and Primaries

Have your students read about caucuses and primaries, and what the purpose is for having them. Define each one, and discuss the differences and similarities between the two. Discuss what the election process would be like if we had no caucuses or primaries. Look up the differences between states and how they run their caucuses/primaries in regards to party affiliation – which states have open primaries, which ones do not, and how this affects the outcomes of the voting.

Electoral College

Study the history of the Electoral College and discuss how it works. Learn how many electors each state has, and why. Discuss the pros and cons of the system – why we use this system, what works about it, what does not work about it. Is it fair that a candidate can win the popular vote but still lose in the Electoral College vote because of the disbursement of electoral votes? What happens when a designated elector does not vote the way that they are “supposed” to? What do you think would happen if we did away with the Electoral College system?

Candidates

Research what makes a good candidate, and what are the most likely qualifications that land a particular person their ticket’s candidacy. Discuss what seems to matter to the people of America that makes one candidate more popular than another – their stand on issues, physical appearance, knowledge, personal charisma and so forth. Choose two of the current candidates to compare and contrast.

Disenfranchisement and Suffrage

Study the history of who has and has not been allowed to vote throughout American history. Why did the Founding Fathers limit voting rights so strictly, and was this fair or right? Research the lengths that people had to go to in order to be afforded the right to vote like everyone else. Why did we have to have Constitutional amendments to finally allow everyone the right to vote?

General Topics

Here are some ideas for mini-books, essays, or just general discussion:

- * If I Became President...
- * Why Voting Is Important
- * My Favorite Candidate
- * How Much Does It Cost To Become The President?
- * The Issue That Is Most Important To Me
- * Presidential Qualifications – Should They Be Changed?
- * Life On the Campaign Trail
- * Different Ways Leaders Are Elected Around the World
- * Qualities of a Good President

Suggested reading:

- * Check your local library for copies of news magazines like US News & World Report and Time or some of the major metropolitan newspapers. They will have good articles all year long.
- * “Winners and Losers: How Elections Work in America” by Jules Archer (very dated, but has a lot of good articles on the election process and several historical campaigns)
- * Power to the People: How We Elect the President and Other Officials” by Kevin Cunningham (very short and basic, good for younger students)
- * “America Votes: How Our President Is Elected” by Linda Granfield (excellent upper elementary to middle school book)
- * “Vote!” by Eileen Christelow (elementary age level – doesn’t really cover Presidential elections, but nicely presents the concept of running for office and how elections work at a basic level)
- * “Our Elections” by Richard Steins (short, basic book about the election process)
- * “Campaigns and Elections” by George Sullivan (part of a series called “Ballots and Bandwagons”)
- * “The Voice of the People: American Democracy in Action” by Betsy and Giulio Maestro