

Voting Rights

WebQuest Description: Want to know more about voting? Want to know what the bill of rights has to do with your voting opportunities? Do you know the history of voting? You can learn all of these things by checking out this webquest.

Grade Level: 6-8

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: democracy, voting, bill of rights

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Introduction

Introduction Who's controlling your life and future? Do you feel that other people are making decisions for you? Are you bothered by restrictive laws for youth? Do the youth of America have a say in this matter? Know your individual rights! Become involved! Decisions are made by adults every day that can and will affect your life and your future. Today you have been given the opportunity to change your community by taking on an active role in the governmental decision making process. Rock the vote! The National Youth Commission has been established to solicit the viewpoints of today's young people. The commission is seeking out the youth of today to help produce a series of advertisements directed to issues affecting young people. You and your teammates will become a part of national history by effectively contributing your points of view and ideas to the National Youth Commission advertising campaign. The theme of the advertisements will be "Establishing Yourself Today in Yesterday's World." The purpose is to educate young people about the components and importance of America's Bill of Rights; and demonstrate how a well researched, persuasive viewpoint can be created about a controversial issue relating to the rights of individuals. You have been selected by the commission to participate in the creation of the Commission's first advertisement in the series created by youth, for youth!

Tasks

The Task You have been selected by the National Youth Commission Advertising Campaign to be a member of their ad production crew. You and your team will: Analyze the the Bill of Rights. Identify the current social/political issues that are connected to the constitutional interpretation of the Bill of Rights. Examine the voting records of political representatives for legislation introduced or supported that relates to constitutional issues. Select a controversial issue which affects today's youth and is related to the interpretation of an article in the Bill of Rights. Investigate opposing points of view on this issue and formulate your team position on this issue. Create an advertising campaign that takes a stand on the chosen issue, inform others of their basic rights, and encourages other young people to become involved. Good luck!

Process

You have been assigned to a team of 3-4 students. You and your team will accomplish the following six tasks. At the end of the six tasks, each team member will be responsible for turning in the task forms packet. You will be working as part of a design team to produce your power point ad campaign. Your team needs to decide who will assume each of the following roles. Manager--coordinates between group members--keeps group members on task--monitors time and speed of work--ensures continuity between all parts of the power point to produce a polished final product. Chief Researcher--locates, reads, and records pertinent information from websites. Chief Writer--composes and types the words for the power point. Graphic Artist--locate, modify, and inset graphic images (pictures, charts, maps, etc.) into the power point--creates a visually pleasing layout for the entire power point presentation. Task 1 - Analyze the Bill of Rights. Using the links provided, work with your group to locate, research, and discuss the Bill of Rights. Please take notes as you accomplish your research. Discuss the information you found on the Bill of Rights with your team. Compare and contrast your ideas about the Bill of Rights based on the information you have collected. Create a summary of the Bill of Rights using words or pictures using the "Task 1" form. <http://www.usconstitution.net/constkids4.html> <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/citizenship/rights.html> <http://www.quia.com/cc/142682.html> Task 2 - Identify the current social/political issues that are connected to constitutional interpretation of the Bill of Rights. Once your group has completed research about the Bill of Rights, begin identifying and researching issues related to the Bill of Rights which are related to today. Takes notes as you work through your research and create a list of issues that interest you from your investigation. You may use the following web sites to find information related to today's issues. <http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK> <http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/http://news.nationalgeographic.com/kids/> As a team, identify two issues that are related to the Bill of Rights. Remember you may have to compromise on the issues you would like to work on in order to agree upon your team's two issues. Investigate and analyze those issues and discuss how they relate to the Bill of Rights. When you have enough information, write a new amendment or expand on an existing amendment. Record your information on the "Task 2" Form. Task 3 - Examine the records of political representatives for legislation introduced or supported that relates to constitutional issues. As a team, use the web sites below to research who represents you in the House of Representatives from your district. Your team will research the bills your representative has voted on during the last session and choose one. Find out the details of this bill and decide as a team if you would have voted for or against that piece of legislation. Record your information

activity help you understand your rights as a voting citizen? If it did, would you consider running for a political office in the future? Why or why not?

Teacher Page

This webquest is intended for middle school students in grades 6-8. This webquest addresses the standard, indicator, and objective from the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum Standard 1The student will understand the historical development and current status of the fundamental concepts and processes of authority, power, and influence, with particular emphasis on the democratic skills and attitudes necessary to become responsible citizens Indicator 2The student will analyze historic documents to determine the basic principles of the United States government and apply them to real-world situations (1.1.1) Objective1. Identify the rights of citizens in the Bill of Rights and how these rights protect the citizens and limit the power of government. Core Learning Goal(1) The student will analyze historic documents to determine the basic principles of the United States government and apply them to real-world situations.(2) The student will evaluate the degree to which the principles of government assist or impede the functioning of government and protect the rights of individuals and groups.(3) The student will evaluate the roles and policies the United States has assumed regarding public issues.

Standards

Credits

Other