

How to Run a Free Program on Civics for Kids (even if you're not a teacher)

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Essentials

- Know your goals
- Free webtools WITH print media
- Multilingual formats
- Incentives

How we did it

“Election Extravaganza Week!” November 1-8, 2016 – run through a webpage. Aimed at grades 3-6, but younger kids participated with help from adults.

<http://nbfpl.org/KidsElectionPage.html>

<http://nbfpl.org/KidsElectionPageSpanish.html>

Our incentive: if a child completed at least 5 activities, they received a coupon for 2 extra computer turns (at NBFPL, children have 2 computer turns a day; this entitled them to extra personal computer use time).

Capstone event: Kids’ Polling Place in our Story Room for a mock election (in the library and nationally through PebbleGo! Vote). The polling place was decked out in patriotic paraphernalia, including an “election booth,” crafts, and patriotic music.

Web tools

1. TedTalks. We used “Does Your Vote Count? The Electoral College Explained.”
Why I picked it: it uses animated graphics and clocks in at just over 5 minutes – anything longer won’t get watched.



Does your vote count? The Electoral College explained - Christina Greer



2,036,976 Views

25,349 Questions Answered

Let's Begin...

You vote, but then what? Discover how your individual vote contributes to the popular vote and your state's electoral vote in different ways—and see how votes are counted on both state and national levels.



Watch

Think

Dig Deeper

Customize This Lesson

900

Create and share a new lesson based on this one.

2. PebbleGo! Vote

Why I picked it: This was an online learning tool offering a free mock election page for students to participate in a national mock election. Presumably this service will not be offered outside of national general elections. You provide the information of your institution, and they will send you the results of the mock election for your specific organization, as well as the national results.



3. Ben's Guide for Kids.

Why I picked it: This website provides documents and games from the Government Printing Office (GPO), sorted by age group (4-8, 9-13, and 14+). The interface is a bit clunky, and the games are limited, so, pro-tip: don't require students use this for more than a half-hour, and be on hand to guide them through the documents.



4. Scholastic News – Election.

Why I picked it: A solid choice for games or information. Scholastic offers written articles, videos, interactive media, an election countdown, interviews and articles by kid reporters, and is continuing coverage and commentary even post-election. Easily navigable for grades 3+

