



*Honoring the Spirit of America*

[www.museumofpatriotism.org](http://www.museumofpatriotism.org)

## *“Freedom of Choice”*

***Subject Area:***

Social Studies

***Subject Area/Grade Level Taught:***

American Government/Civics (10<sup>th</sup> grade)  
US History (11<sup>th</sup> grade)

***Quality Plus Teaching Strategy Used:***

Literacy  
Background Knowledge

***Concept/ Topic to Teach:***

Voting: Freedom of Choice

***Standards Addressed:***

SSCG8, SSCG18, SS8CG1, SS8CG2, SS8CG3, SSUSH13, SSUSH25  
For teachers outside the state of Georgia, check your local or state curriculum to see what requirements this lesson plan satisfies.

***General Goal(s):***

To illustrate the election process by holding a campaign and mock election in class.

***Specific Objectives:***

1. Define voting.
2. Compare and contrast America’s voting rights to other countries
3. Explore the election process
4. Chart the history of voting

***Required Materials:***

Internet  
Markers/colored pencils  
Poster Board  
Paper

Pen  
Computer  
Internet  
Other art materials as needed

***Step-By-Step Procedures:***

1. Begin discussion by asking three questions
  - a. Why is it important to vote?
  - b. How power is voting
  - c. Does everyone have the right to vote?
2. Students should brainstorm their thoughts on paper.
3. Explain and demonstrate different ways to vote by show of hands, ballet, verbally, etc.
4. Have students vote on a classroom or school issue
5. Have students work in groups to research and present America's voting rights and rules, international voting policies and procedures, and historical events.
6. Then have student each run for a political position within the class. Have each student write and give a campaign speech and create a campaign poster.
7. Students should then give speech.
8. Then hold a primary election. Teacher should count ballots and nominate the top two candidates for a run-off election.
9. The top two students should then rewrite speech and deliver the new speech.
10. Final voting will take place after speeches.

***Adaptations for Students with Special Needs:***

Use of computer and/or computer software.

***Extensions for Gifted Students:***

Choose a recent election and perform a case study on that election. If possible interview the politicians running in that election. Students should also create a campaign video.

***Possible Connections to Other Subjects:***

Language Arts

***Additional Comments:***

Field trip to Capitol to observe voting process in state legislature.