



## TEACHING AN ELEMENTARY LESSON

(Time varies)

### OBJECTIVE

Students teach a lesson on an aspect of civic participation to an elementary class.

### MATERIALS

Access to elementary teachers' phone numbers (through principal of the school, teacher directory, etc); any supplies needed for the students' lessons

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Invite two or three elementary teachers from a local elementary school to your class to speak with your students about possible ideas for collaboration between the high school students and elementary students around civic participation.
- ✓ Have your students contact and follow up with any elementary teachers interested in a 30 to 45 minute civic participation lesson in his/her class. (If enough teachers are interested, have students work one on one with a teacher, but if not either pair or group your students).
- ✓ Each student or group should collect the following information:
  - ✓ The name of the elementary teacher
  - ✓ The grade of the class
  - ✓ The number of students in the class
  - ✓ The location of the school
  - ✓ The discipline/management system used in the class
- ✓ In class, have your students develop a brainstormed list of possibilities for the

elementary teacher to choose from. These should be sent to the teacher at least one month ahead of the scheduled day for the lesson.

Possibilities include:

- ✓ Teaching a Kids Voting USA activity from the *Kids Voting USA Classroom Activities: K-8* resource
- ✓ Teaching a lesson of the teacher's choosing from the social studies curriculum
- ✓ High school students designing and teaching a lesson on a suitable topic: city government, voting, elections, the U.S. presidency, and so forth
- ✓ After the high school students successfully teach their lessons, have them write short reflections about how the lessons went.
- ✓ Have your students send the participating elementary school teachers a short evaluation form to fill out and return. Questions on the form might include the following:
  - ✓ Were the high school students responsible and well prepared to teach?
  - ✓ How did the lesson go? How did your students respond?
  - ✓ Do you have any suggestions for improving this collaboration?
  - ✓ Would you like to participate in this collaboration again?



## TEACHING AN ELEMENTARY LESSON (continued)

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Did you accomplish your goals?*
- ★ *How did the elementary students respond to your lesson?*
- ★ *What was the most rewarding aspect?*
- ★ *What did you struggle with the most while coming up with a lesson? What was the most difficult part of teaching your lesson?*
- ★ *What did you learn from this experience about elementary youth's knowledge and interest in the topic about which you taught?*

### MORE!

- ✓ Students can organize an after-school "Kids Voting" club for upper elementary or middle school students interested in learning about voting, politics, and ways they can get involved in their community.