



## VOTE QUOTES

(30 minutes)

### OBJECTIVE

Students study famous quotes to learn the significance of the right to vote.

### MATERIALS

*Vote Quotes* handout

### GET READY

- ✓ Make a copy of the *Vote Quotes* handout for each student.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Give each student in the class a copy of the *Vote Quotes* handout.
- ✓ Tell your students that they will be analyzing the six quotes on the handout. Have them interpret, in their own words, the purpose and meaning of each quote.
- ✓ Once your students have individually analyzed the six quotes, have them get into groups of two or three to discuss and compare their thoughts.
- ✓ Have your class come together as a whole to discuss all responses.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ★ *What quote did you agree with the most? Why?*
- ★ *Did you struggle with interpreting any of the quotes? Which one(s) and why?*
- ★ *Did you disagree with any of the quotes? If yes, why?*
- ★ *Did you find that the people in your small group had similar interpretations of the quotes?*
- ★ *What insights did these quotes shed on suffrage?*



## VOTE QUOTES

1. “The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter.”  
–Dwight D. Eisenhower
2. “The ballot is stronger than the bullet.”  
–Abraham Lincoln
3. “Those who stay away from the election think that one vote will do no good: ‘Tis but one step more to think one vote will do no harm.”  
–Ralph Waldo Emerson
4. “Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.”  
–George Jean Nathan
5. “The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all.”  
–John Fitzgerald Kennedy
6. “People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote — a very different thing.”  
–Walter H. Judd