



VOTER APATHY EXPERIENCE

(A few minutes a day for a week)

OBJECTIVE

Students experience the effects of apathy.

MATERIALS

Ballots handout; *Please Vote Today* handout; material to construct a ballot box

GET READY

- ✓ Adapt the set of ballots on the following page for your classroom, if necessary.
- ✓ Copy and cut apart a set of ballots for each student.
- ✓ Copy the *Please Vote Today* sign and assign a student to color it and set it up on a table or desk.
- ✓ Assign a few students to construct a ballot box. Set it near the *Please Vote Today* sign.
- ✓ See “Causes of Apathy” in the Appendix.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ On Monday, without discussion, say to the students: *We will vote on an issue a day for the next five days. Each morning I will place the ballots by the ballot box. Please come by the desk once a day to vote by marking a ballot and placing your ballots in the box. At the end of the week we will tally and implement the votes.*
- ✓ Do not encourage or remind students to vote during the week.
- ✓ At the end of the week, assign a few students to tally and record the results on the board.
- ✓ The following week, implement the results.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What was the point of this activity?*
- ★ *Do any of you who didn't vote wish you had?*
- ★ *Might the outcome have been different if everyone had voted?*
- ★ *Did more students vote on some days than others? Why?*
- ★ *What does the word “apathy” mean? (Unconcern or indifference)*
- ★ *Were any of us apathetic to voting? Why or why not?*
- ★ *Do you think more students would vote if we voted like this again? Why?*
- ★ *Are voters in the U.S. apathetic? Why?*
- ★ *Why should citizens vote? What could happen if they don't vote?*
- ★ *Is there anything we can do to encourage adults to vote? What can we do?*

MORE!

Help your students learn to be responsible to vote by allowing them to make as many classroom decisions as possible by voting.



BALLOTS

<p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR ONE (Length of Recess)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increase recess by 10 minutes, but add 10 minutes of homework</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease recess by 10 minutes, but take away 10 minutes of homework</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Keep recess and homework the same as it has been</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR ONE (Order of Day)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Math, Science, Reading, Spelling, Social Studies</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Science, Spelling, Reading, Social Studies, Math</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Remain as is</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR ONE (Amount of Homework)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Once a week for 1 hour</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Every night for 15 minutes each night</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 times a week for 20 minutes each night</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR ONE (Lunch)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lunch in room next Monday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lunch outside next Monday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lunch in cafeteria next Monday</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR ONE (Work Pattern)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Work alone all day</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Work with a friend all day</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Work in teams all day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR ONE (Issue: _____)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>



PLEASE VOTE TODAY



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