

**IF ELECTED...**

(20-25 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students consider the power of American democracy in action, making decisions as an elected leader would.

- ✓ Allow students to share what they have written with the class, and encourage them to send their letters to the elected official whose positions they wrote about.

MATERIALS

Lined paper

GET READY

- ✓ Have paper available for students to write on.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Ask, *In America can our leaders do whatever they want to?* Listen and respond to student responses.
- ✓ Then ask, *What are the types of leaders we have in America?* (president, governor, senator, mayor, school board member, etc.)
- ✓ Tell the students to imagine they were just elected to office— they should choose an office to hold (governor, mayor, president, school board member, etc.)
- ✓ Tell your students to brainstorm things they would do if they were elected to office. It would be helpful to the students later on in the activity if they wrote their ideas down on paper.
- ✓ Have your students consult with each other about their ideas. They can share in pairs or in small groups of three or four.
- ✓ Inform the students that they need to use these brainstorming ideas to compose an essay about what they would do if they were elected to office.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What were some of the best ideas that someone shared?*
- ★ *Remember, you were elected to office by the people you represent. Were you thinking about them when you wrote your ideas?*
- ★ *American leaders are not allowed to abuse the power they have. Did we hear any ideas that sounded like someone was using their power in a way they shouldn't?*
- ★ *Think about the office you wrote about. Can you name a power this leader has? A power the leader does not have?*
- ★ *Could you actually become this leader? How would you prepare to become this leader?*
- ★ *Is our democracy all about our leaders? What would you say democracy is about?*