



POLL ON APATHY

(A few minutes a day for several days)

OBJECTIVE

Students poll voters to examine voter responsibility.

MATERIALS

Poll On Apathy handout; construction paper; bulletin board

GET READY

- ✓ Copy the *Poll On Apathy* handout for each student.
- ✓ Prepare a bulletin board to resemble the Poll Graph illustrated below.
- ✓ Cut 1/2-inch construction paper squares for graphing the results of the poll.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Discuss the meaning of the word *apathy* (apathy: lack of interest or concern, especially concerning matters of a general importance or appeal; indifference).
- ✓ Give a copy of the *Poll On Apathy* handout to each student. Each handout consists of four sets of the same polling questions. Determine the number of adults you want your students to interview and instruct them accordingly.

- ✓ Instruct them to poll teachers, parents, relatives, and neighbors (with supervision) and to return the handouts within a certain amount of time.
- ✓ Let each student place squares on the bulletin board to indicate the information polled.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What can we determine by the results of our polls?*
- ★ *In our poll, what reasons did adults give for not voting? Is this apathy?*
- ★ *What are some solutions to their reasons?*
- ★ *What would be the benefits if everyone voted?*
- ★ *Do you think our poll is large enough and random enough to be accurate for the whole United States? Might there be other reasons for apathy in other places? What are they?*
- ★ *Why should citizens vote? What happens when there is a low voter turnout?*
- ★ *How do our votes give us power?*

MORE!

Have your students graph the results of their polls individually. (You may have your students continue their polling for a longer period.)

QUESTION #1		QUESTION #2		QUESTION #3		QUESTION #4	
YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
QUESTION #5							



POLL ON APATHY

QUESTIONS	YES	NO
1. Have you ever voted?		
2. Are you registered to vote now?		
3. Did you vote in the last election?		
4. Do you plan to vote in the next election?		
5. If the answer to any question is no, what are your reasons?		

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