



REGISTRATION SIMULATION

(30 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students simulate registration to become familiar with the process.

MATERIALS

Voter Registration Application handout; *Application Instructions* handout; Internet access; a piece of lined paper

GET READY

- ✓ Download the national mail voter registration form and instructions from www.lwv.org/ and make a copy for each student, or use the copy and instruction sheet provided.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Show your students how to fill out the forms and registration sheet, reminding them that this is only a simulation.
- ✓ Fold a piece of lined paper down the middle and ask your students to sign their names on the left, to use as a registration sheet for the voting simulation activity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss questions that arise from the activity plus the following:

- ★ *Why are registration requirements different in each state? Should they be? Or should there be a federal law?*
- ★ *What criteria is essential for voter registration?*
- ★ *Why might some people be reluctant to register to vote?*
- ★ *Are there or have there recently been any changes made in state registration policies? If so, what are they?*
- ★ *As of the summer of 1999, the California State Assembly had passed a bill allowing registration on voting day. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?*
- ★ *Could you influence others to register? How?*

MORE!

Go to www.rockthevote.org/ for information on volunteering to help citizens register. Information is available for organizing a registration day at school for parents as well as to request forms for stickers, posters, etc.

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VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION – FOR U.S. CITIZENS Please print in blue or black ink

1	Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Circle One Jr Sr II III IV	
2	Address (see instructions) – Street (or route or box #)		Apt. or Lot #	City/Town	State	Zip Code
3	Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above			City/Town	State	Zip Code
4	Date of Birth ____/____/____ Month Day Year	5	Telephone Number (optional)	6	ID Number (see item 6 in the instructions for your State)	
7	Choice of Party (see item 7 in the instructions for your State)			8	Race or Ethnic Group (see item 8 in the instructions for your State)	
9	<p>I swear/affirm that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a United States Citizen. • I meet the eligibility requirements of my state and subscribe to any oath required. (see item 9 in the instructions for your State before you sign.) • The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States. 			<p>Please sign your full name (or put your mark)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; width: 100%;"></div>		
				<p>Date</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> ____/____/____ Month Day Year </div>		

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Box 1 – Name

Put in this box your full name in this order – Last, First, Middle. Do not use nicknames or initials.

Box 2 – Home Address

Put in this box your home address (legal address). Do not put your mailing address here if it is different from your home address. Do not use post office box or rural route without a box number.

Box 3 – Mailing Address

If you get your mail at an address that is different from the address from Box 2, put your mailing address in this box.

Box 4 – Date of Birth

Put in this box your date of birth in this order – Month, Day, Year.

Box 5 – Telephone Number

Most states ask for your telephone number in case there are questions about your application. However, you do not have to fill in this box.

Box 6 – ID Number

Many states use an ID number for record-keeping purposes. To find out what ID number, if any, you need to put in this box, see item 6 in the instructions under your state.

Box 7 – Choice of Party

In some states, you must register with a party if you want to take part in that party’s primary election, caucus, or convention. To find out if your state requires this, see item 7 in the instructions under your state. If you want to register with a party, print in the box the full name of the party of your choice. If you do not want to register with a party, write in “no party” or leave the box blank. Do not write in the word “independent” if you mean “no party” because this might be confused with the name of a political party in your state.

Box 8 – Race or Ethnic Group

A few states ask for your race or ethnic group, in order to administer the Federal Voting Rights Act. To find out if your state asks for this information, see item 8 in the instructions under your state. If so, put in Box 8 the choice that best describes you from the list below.

- American Indian or Alaskan native

- Asian or Pacific Islander – not Native Hawaiian
- Black; not of Hispanic Origin
- Hispanic
- Multi-racial
- Native Hawaiian
- White, not of Hispanic Origin
- Other

Box 9 – Signature

Review the information in item 9 in the instructions under your state. Before you sign or make your mark, make sure that:

1. You meet your state’s requirements, and
2. You understand all of Box 9.

Finally, sign your full name or make your mark, and print today’s date in this order – Month, Day, Year.

Box 10 – Name of Assistant

If the applicant is unable to sign, put in this box the name, address, and telephone number (optional) of the person who helped you.

If your **STATE INSTRUCTIONS** are unavailable, use the generic instructions.

6. **ID Number.** The last 4 digits of your social security number and your Indian Census number (if you have one) are requested.
7. **Choice of Party.** You must register with a party if you want to take part in that party’s primary election, caucus, or convention.
8. **Race or Ethnic Group.** Leave blank.
9. **Signature.** To register you must:
 - be a citizen of the United States
 - be a resident of this state at least 29 days preceding the next election
 - be 18 years old on or before the next general election
 - not have been convicted of treason or a felony (or have had your civil rights restored)
 - not currently be declared an incapacitated person by court of law

(If you were actually registering you would now mail or take your registration to the local voter registration office.)