

GRADE: 3-5 (Lesson 1)

Big Idea: Civic and Political Participation

Standard: SS.3.C.2, SS.4.C.2, SS.5.C.2

Peggy's Dilemma

Objective:

1. Students will use critical thinking skills to answer questions about a voting scenario.

Materials and Resources needed:

1. Pencil
2. "Peggy's Dilemma" Worksheets

Suggested Teaching Time: (30 minutes)

1. (5 Minutes) Discussion of importance of making educated decisions.
2. (5 Minutes) Pass out "Peggy's Dilemma" worksheets.
3. (10 minutes) Read the scenario with the students.
4. (5 minutes) Student activity.
5. (5 minutes) Student vote.

Next Generation Benchmarks

1. SS.3.C.2.1 – Identify group and individual actions of citizens that demonstrate civility, cooperation, volunteerism, and other civic virtues.
2. SS.4.C.2.2 –Identify ways citizens work together to influence government and help solve community and state problems.
3. SS.4.C.2.3 –Explain the importance of public service, voting, and volunteerism.
4. SS.5.C.2.4 –Evaluate the importance of civic responsibilities in American democracy.
5. SS.5.C.2.5 –Identify ways good citizens go beyond basic civic and political responsibilities to improve government and society.



Activity

1. Tell the students that they will be examining a scenario that they may face (class president).
2. Discuss with the students that an informed voter knows who is running for office (the candidates) and the platform (beliefs, opinions, and position on the issues) of each of the candidates.
 - a. Guide the discussion so that the students understand that candidates are people who are running for office and they are asking people to vote for them in the election.
 - b. Discuss with the students that sometimes the candidates have different views but have sound reasoning for their platforms.
3. Pass out “Peggy’s Dilemma” worksheets.
4. Read the scenario with the students.
5. Have students circle voting vocabulary words.
6. Answer the questions with the students.
7. After the questions have been answered, have the students give suggestions of who they feel should get Peggy’s vote.
8. Instruct students to cut off the bottom of the page and cast their vote.
9. Announce the results of the winner based on the character’s platform in the story.

Peggy's Dilemma

Peggy has a huge dilemma. It is time to elect the class president and she does not know who to vote for in the election. She has looked at each of the candidates' platforms and she is torn. Both candidates make strong arguments as to why they should be elected as the class president.

First Peggy looked at Robert's platform. Robert thinks that the students should wear uniforms. He feels that this will stop some people from being teased because they cannot afford the same type of clothes as other students. He has also said that school lunches should be pre-packaged. This would cost less money that could be used to help the students. Robert has discussed that the school day should be shorter so that students can have more time to play outside to get more exercise. Peggy also saw a poster of Robert's that said, "Backpacks making your back sore? Vote for Robert and wear them no more!" During the speeches, Robert stated that if he was elected, he would suggest that homework be given only three times a week. This way, students could have time for sports and other activities.

Cathy is also running for class president. Cathy feels that uniforms will limit students' ability to express themselves. In fact, one of Cathy's slogans is, "If you want to be cool, NO uniforms in school!" Peggy has also heard Cathy talk about the school lunches. Even though it will cost more money, Cathy feels that the lunches should be made fresh at school. It will be more nutritious and taste better. Cathy feels that the school day should be longer. If the school day was longer the students could get more help and they would not have to be home alone while their parents are working. Backpacks are very important to Cathy. She thinks that backpacks help students stay organized and makes it easier to take important information home for the parents. In Cathy's speech, she said that she thinks that homework is needed every day. If homework is given every day then the students will get more practice and will do better on tests.

Peggy has a tough decision that she has to make. She does not want to be hasty with her vote.



NAME _____

DATE _____

Peggy's Dilemma

1. Name the candidates and list their platforms.

2. Circle 2 issues that you liked the best. Why did you choose those issues?

3. Why do you think Peggy is having a hard time deciding who to vote for in the election?

Who would you vote for?

_____ Robert

_____ Cathy

