Build Your Platform

Objectives:

1. The student will use issues to build a platform for class president.

Materials and Resources needed:

1. Pencil
2. "My Platform" Worksheet

Suggested Teaching Time: (40 minutes)

1. (10 Minutes) Discussion of why people run for public office.

2. (5 Minutes) Pass out the "My Platform" worksheet.

3. (15 minutes) Student activity.

4. (10 minutes) Student sharing.

Next Generation Standards for Social Studies:

1. Standard 1: Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system.
2. Standard 2: Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system.
3. Standard 3: Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions, and organization of government.

Activity

1. Ask the students why they think people want to hold public office and therefore run for election.
2. Guide the discussion towards:
   a. Making changes
   b. Improving government and society
   c. Solving problems for the community
3. On the board have students brainstorm issues that they feel they face at school.
4. Ask the students how they think that these issues could be solved.
5. Inform the students that they are now candidates for Class President. As candidates they need to have platforms (beliefs, opinions, and position on the issues). Pass out a "My Platform" activity sheet to each student.
6. Tell the students that they will build their political platform as part of the activity.
   a. Each student will need to focus on 3 issues.
   b. Remind students that candidates use are trying to persuade people to vote for them in an election.
7. Allow students an opportunity to share their platform with the class.

My Platform

My issues:

    1.

    2.

    3.

Why I think they are important:

    1.

    2.

    3.

What I would do to solve these issues:

    1.

    2.

    3.

On a separate piece of paper, write to explain why someone should vote for you based on the issues you described in your platform.

The Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
A Partnership for Florida's Civic Health

LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS

KIDS Voting
LEON COUNTY