

CLASS 7

In this class students are challenged to devise an election campaign, manifesto and interview questions for candidates for the Student Council. Having completed the previous class, students have some idea of the qualities that they would like to see in their Student Council representative. This class offers students the opportunity to put this information together to devise election strategies that are going to win them votes. It will also help to inform any students that may be considering becoming a candidate for the Student Council some time in the future

ACTIVITY

- Photocopy the task sheet enough for each group of 4 students.
- Break the class into groups of 4 or any combination that works for you.
- Distribute the task sheet and read through the instructions with the students.
- Allow 20 minutes for students to work on the task.
- Get each group to nominate a candidate from within the group, a campaign manager and two interviewers.
- When the students are organised ask each of the campaign managers to outline their campaign strategy.
- When the campaign managers have finished ask the candidates to make their speeches. They have a maximum of 2 minutes to talk uninterrupted. Time the speeches and stop them at the 2 minute mark.
- Ask all of the candidates to stand and the groups can then ask questions of whichever candidate they wish. They must raise their hand and speak through you as the chairperson.
- They must declare who they are asking the question of and state their question clearly.
- Heckling the candidates is not allowed!

FOLLOW – UP ACTIVITY

1. Ask the students to decide individually which was the best overall campaign strategy and speech from the manifesto - in other words who would they as individuals have been most likely to vote for and why?
2. Ask each student to put together their own short campaign speech, now that they have heard the candidates from each group. They will have heard things that they liked themselves or things that they didn't use whilst in their groups.

STUDENT TASK SHEET

TASK

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE GOING ON IN YOUR SCHOOL IN A MONTHS TIME.

1. One of your group is a candidate so your job is to come up with a campaign strategy for him / her.
2. Put together a manifesto for your candidate that you can use as a leaflet / flyer to tell people about yourself. It will also help you to make your speech.
3. Prepare questions for the other candidates, bearing in mind that you want your candidate to win!

When you have finished this task, one of you will have to make an election speech (maximum length 2 minutes) and be questioned by the other groups. Your group will not interview you, but will ask questions of the other candidates. Your teacher will also ask you to outline your campaign strategy for getting elected.

CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

How are you going to get support for your candidate so that lots of people will vote for her/him?

Where, when and how are you going to campaign?

Hint: posters, announcements, giving speeches, meeting people...



THE MANIFESTO

How are you going to let your classmates know what is going on at the student council?

How do you intend to get and bring the issues from your class to the student council? Hint: suggestion box, regular meetings...

What type of a person are you and why would you be the best for this job? Are you reliable, a good listener, dedicated, fair...?

Don't make promises that you cant keep e.g. promising a half-day on Fridays or less homework... **but** what would be the first thing you would like to see done as a student council representative? What issues are important to you and your class?



INTERVIEWING CANDIDATES

See what they are promising and find out how they are planning to carry out these promises.

Why should you vote for them? What issues are important to them?



Keep in mind your candidate's manifesto when putting together the questions, as it will help him / her to know what to expect and to be ready for the interview!