

A few essential questions about elections and voting



Candidates and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Do candidates make promises? Can you give me an example?▪ Do all candidates keep the promises they make once they are elected?▪ What can you do to make sure that candidates keep their promises when they are elected?▪ What do you do once an election is over?▪ How do candidates try to win an election?▪ Can you give me an example of an issue?▪ What issues are important to you?▪ Does it matter if a candidate talks about issues that are not really the responsibility of the office they seek?▪ Why is it important to study the candidates?▪ Why is it important to study the issues?▪ What can you do to study the candidates and issues?
Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How do you support your country?▪ Do you know people who don't care about our government? Why do you think they don't care?▪ If the majority of Americans think something is good, are they always going to be right?▪ What do adults do to contribute to our country? Kids?▪ What can you do to make our country better?▪ What do you think is the best thing about living in America? North Carolina? Charlotte?▪ Is being a good citizen the same as being an active citizen? Why?▪ Do you think it should be easy or hard to become an American citizen? Why?

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Communicating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Have you ever told anyone how you felt about something that was important to you?▪ What do you think is a good way to share an opinion with someone else?▪ Is it always easy to say how you feel?▪ Do people always agree with you?▪ What do you do when someone disagrees with you?▪ Do you know what it means to communicate?▪ What makes a good communicator?
Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Have you heard the word “democracy” before? Where and when?▪ Who has the power in a democracy? The leader or the people he/she leads?▪ Sometimes people don’t agree with the decisions that are made in a democracy. Should everyone still have to stand by those decisions? Why or why not?▪ How are decisions made in a democracy?▪ If you did not live in a democracy, what do you think you would be missing?▪ How can you, as students, participate in a democracy?▪ Does everyone you know understand what a democracy is? What can you do to help others understand democracy?▪ Why is democracy the fairest form of government?
Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What’s involved in an election?▪ What is the purpose of an election?▪ Are there different kinds of elections? If so, what are they? What makes them different?▪ Do people have to follow rules in elections? Why or why

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	<p>not?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do people have to be nice to the people running the elections? Why or why not?
<p>Gathering information and making decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why is information important? ▪ What are sources of information? ▪ Is everything that you hear or read true? ▪ How do you decide if something is true? ▪ Why is important to gather information before making a decision? ▪ What makes one source of information better than another? ▪ How is the media helpful to voters? How is the media helpful to candidates? How about the reverse? ▪ What makes some decisions good and other ones bad? ▪ Tell me about a decision you have made. Do you think it was a good decision, why or why not?
<p>Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are the 3 branches of government? ▪ What are the differences and similarities between the 3 branches of government? ▪ What are the different levels of government? Why are there different levels of government? (local, state, federal, etc.) ▪ Can you name an office in local government? In state government? In federal government? How about in each branch of government? ▪ What does government do? Why does it exist? ▪ Are there careers in government? Give me some examples. (You can have almost every kind of job in government, even at the local level – accounting, art,

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	landscaping, police, IT, law, writing, scientist, etc.)
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What types of people make good leaders? Good elected officials? ▪ Can you think of examples of people who have demonstrated leadership this year? How have you shown others that you are a leader? ▪ Can anyone be a leader? Are you born a leader or do you learn leadership, like you learn how to ride a bike or read? ▪ What are the qualities of a leader?
Right to vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do you know that the right to vote is called suffrage? What does having the right to vote mean? ▪ Do those with the right to vote have more power than those without? ▪ Does everyone have the right to vote? Who does? Who doesn't? ▪ Why would you want the right to vote? Why do you think so many people in general do not vote in our country? ▪ How might our country be different if the power to vote was still limited to those who had it at the time of the writing of the constitution?
Rights and responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How are you responsible? Give me an example. ▪ What does having a right mean? ▪ Can you think of an example of a right? ▪ What do you think the freedom of speech is? ▪ What does the word "freedom" mean to you? ▪ Do kids have rights? Are they the same as adults' rights? ▪ The constitution guarantees us many of our rights. Why do you think our forefathers felt that they needed to

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	<p>protect our rights?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are some of our protected rights? ▪ Does freedom of speech mean that you can say whatever you want whenever you want? ▪ What does the word “freedom” mean to you? ▪ Do you think kids have enough rights? Do you think there are certain rights denied to you that you should have? ▪ What do you think are a citizen’s responsibilities? ▪ How are you a responsible citizen?
Voter Apathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is apathy? ▪ Why are some people apathetic about voting? ▪ What happens when people do not vote?
Voter registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What does it mean to be a ‘registered voter’? ▪ What does registering to vote involve? ▪ What happens if you want to vote and you aren’t registered? ▪ Why is it important to vote? ▪ What do you accomplish when you register and vote? ▪ Do you think it makes sense to be 18 and not exercise your right to vote?
Voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What does voting entail? How old do you have to be? Where do you go? What do you do? ▪ What does voting accomplish? ▪ Does voting make a difference? How? ▪ What power does voting give those who vote? ▪ Have you ever been to a polling place? What was it like?