

## A few essential questions about elections and voting



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

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

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

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

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