

DESIGN A VOTING SITE

OBJECTIVE

Students create and vote in their own polling place to become familiar with the voting process.

MATERIALS

As needed for your activity: Paper and pens for signs, material for a ballot box and voting booth, pencils for voting on paper ballot; ballot tools and I voted stickers (from GenNation).

INSTRUCTIONS

- ★ Talk about the election process in basic terms. When citizens go to vote:
 - First they learn about the candidates and issues, and get ready to vote.
 - They go to an official special area in their community called a “polling place”.
 - At the polling place, voters wait patiently in line until it is their turn at the voting booth.
 - At the voting booth, the voter reviews the ballot and records his/her vote.
 - After voting, the voter receives an I Voted sticker to proudly wear and show everyone that they actively participate in democracy!
 - Find examples of real polling places at www.GenerationNation.org in the election curriculum and resource toolkit page.
- ★ Divide the class into 3 groups to create the voting site for your class, grade, or school.
 - Posters: Example: Vote Here! Be an active citizen! Make your voice heard!*
 - Voting booth: based on the space available, create/decorate a voting station (or more than one). This could be a table, a carrel, a media station, a computer desk, etc.
 - Rules: where will student voters line up? How will you make sure students wait patiently for their turn? Who gives out the I Voted sticker at the end?
 - Optional: create your own process for voter registration. This could be as simple as a student signing up to vote the week before the election, and then someone checking their name off of a list as they line up to vote.
- ★ Next, implement your GenerationNation student vote!

** Note: Do not create or display posters or signs about one candidate or issue, especially if your school is an official election precinct.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Who can go into a polling place? Where are they located?

Why are there rules in a voting place? How should good citizens act in a voting place?

How do adults know where to go to vote? If they don't know, how can they find out?

Have you voted in the student election before? What was it like? Why should students vote?

MORE RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

Help your students to learn about government, find and analyze information, understand how informed, active citizens participate in democracy through elections and more. Find curriculum alignment guides, candidate and debate information, video, text, images, and more activities plus information about the student vote at www.GenerationNation.org/learn