

IF ELECTED, MY FIRST PRIORITY IN OFFICE

OBJECTIVE

Students think up ways to improve their communities, state, and country as if they were elected to office.

INSTRUCTIONS

Say: Have you ever wondered what the (president, mayor, governor, school board member, etc.) does? Listen to responses.

On the board, write the main roles of the office you are discussing. Tell the class what the roles of the official are. (Find information at www.GenerationNation.org/learn.)

Say: I want you to pretend that each of you has just been elected to ____ office! Tomorrow will be your first day in office. What do you need to do, and want to do, starting tomorrow?

The students will write a paragraph to deliver as a short speech. It should list their priorities and solution to a pressing issue.

Make a master list of suggestions on the board.

Have students discuss the ideas in terms of priority, relevance, and which candidates might most support a particular idea.

Display the ideas, labeling them with the children's last names: "President Smith," "Governor Johnson," "Mayor Thomas", etc. depending on the office level being studied.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ What are the qualifications you need to be elected to office? Characteristics?
- ★ Can citizens make a difference even if they are not in elected office? Give examples.
- ★ Why do candidates make promises and prioritize what they will do in office?
- ★ What do you think is the most important thing for this year's candidates to do if elected?

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