

VOTER APATHY

(A few minutes a day for a week)

OBJECTIVE

Students experience the effects of apathy.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ★ Create a ballot (slip of paper) about a topic of interest to your classroom, with a different topic each day. For example, Do you want extra reading time next Friday? (Yes/No)
- ★ On Monday, without discussion, say to the students: We will vote on an issue for the next five days. Each morning I will place the ballots by the ballot box. Please come by the desk once a day to vote by marking a ballot and placing your ballots in the box. At the end of the week we will tally and implement the votes.
- ★ After the Monday announcement, do not encourage or remind students to vote during the week.
- ★ At the end of the week, assign a few students to tally and record the results on the board.
- ★ The following week, implement the results.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ What was the point of this activity?
- ★ Who didn't vote and now wishes they had?
- ★ Might the outcome have been different if everyone had voted?
- ★ Did more students vote on some days than others? Why?
- ★ What does the word "apathy" mean? (Unconcern or indifference)
- ★ Were any of us apathetic to voting? Why or why not?
- ★ Are voters in the U.S. apathetic? Why?
- ★ Why should citizens vote? What could happen if they don't 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