

PROMOTE *the* VOTE



2015 Theme: "If I Were Elected..."

To explore the statutory job responsibilities of the top eight statewide elected officials in Mississippi; and to examine the statutory authority and political influence these elected individuals can use to effect change in Mississippi.

(Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Commissioner of Insurance)

Key Elements:

Curriculum and Lesson Plans:

Grade-Level Lesson Plans – Elementary; Middle School; High School

Supplementary Materials

Activity Sheets: A downloadable series of activity sheets (similar to Weekly Reader) will be posted to the Promote the Vote website to provide fun activities and articles for students to explore to help teach them about the responsibilities assigned the eight statewide elected offices in Mississippi.

Mock Election: Students will vote for the top eight statewide elected officials in Mississippi: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Commissioner of Insurance.

Online Software: We will provide all registered classrooms and schools with a DVD containing a software program to enable teachers to give students the opportunity to vote in the Mock Election using classroom computers. Teachers will then tally and transmit their classroom/school vote totals via email to the Secretary of State's Office to be included in the statewide Mock Election results.

Schoolwide Participation: We encourage all Mississippi public school district as well as all private schools to encourage participation in the Promote the Vote Mock Election by all students in every school, rather than offering the opportunity only in specific classrooms or grade levels. Just as increased voter participation is needed in regular elections to insure the voice of the people is accurately reflected at the ballot box, all students should be encourage to participate in the student Mock Election. In doing so, educators will be able to emphasize the importance for all citizens to exercise their right to vote.

Student Contests:

All students in classrooms enrolled in the 2015 Promote the Vote program are encouraged to submit entries in as many categories as they wish. Contests are judged by working professionals in the appropriate fields. Winners will be honored in a ceremony at the Mississippi State Capitol in 2016.

Visual Arts Categories

K- Grade 3

Illustration: “My Mississippi” - Illustrate a place, person, thing or event in Mississippi that makes you proud of your State. Attach a title and brief explanation of the subject matter.

Grades 4-6

Illustration: “My Mississippi” - Illustrate a place, person, thing or event in Mississippi that makes you proud of your State. Attach a title and brief explanation of the subject matter.

Grades 7-9

Illustration: “My Mississippi” - Illustrate a place, person, thing or event in Mississippi that represents or depicts the geographic area of the State where you live. Attach a brief description of what is illustrated.

Campaign Poster: “Vote for ME” - Design a campaign poster for your own political campaign for statewide political office. Include your campaign slogan and information on your qualifications and/or key issues.

Editorial Cartoon: - Draw an editorial cartoon about a political issue being discussed by statewide candidates in Mississippi. Attach: 1) a news article found in digital or print media that provided the inspiration for your illustration; and, 2) a short explanation of the purpose of your political cartoon and the technique/tools you used to illustrate your point of view.

Grades 10-12

Illustration: “My Mississippi” - Illustrate a place, person, thing or event in Mississippi that represents or depicts the geographic area of the State where you live. Attach a brief description of what is illustrated.

Campaign Poster: “Vote for ME” - Design a campaign poster for your own political campaign for statewide political office. Include your campaign slogan and information on your qualifications and/or key issues.

Editorial Cartoon: “Political Issue” - Draw an editorial cartoon about a political issue being discussed by statewide candidates in Mississippi. Attach: 1) a news article found in digital or print media that provided the inspiration for your illustration; and, 2) a short explanation of the purpose of your political cartoon and the technique/tools you used to illustrate your point of view

WRITING CATEGORIES

Grades 7 - 9

Essay: “If I Were Elected..., I Would...” - Write an essay (250-word maximum) about what you would accomplish if you were elected to one of Mississippi’s top eight statewide offices. Choose an office that interests you, research what authority or sphere of influence that position is assigned by Mississippi law and then identify an issue or situation that you would have the authority and influence to address or change.

Editorial: “Fix It” - Identify what you consider to be the most critical problem in the State of Mississippi. Write a 250-word maximum editorial column that describes the problem and your proposal for how Mississippi’s elected officials should solve it.

Grades 10-12

Essay: “If I Were Elected Governor, I Would...” - Write an essay (350-word maximum) about what you would accomplish if you were elected as Mississippi’s next governor. Identify key problems or issues you would address as governor and explain the details of your proposed solutions.

Editorial: “The Most Important Thing Mississippi Needs to Do Is...” - Identify what you consider to be one or more of the top issues facing Mississippi’s elected officials in the next four years. Write a 350-word (maximum word count) editorial column describing the problem(s) or issue(s) and outline your proposal for how Mississippi’s elected officials should address or tackle the issue.

PERSUASION

Grades 7-12

Oratory: “If I Were Elected as Governor, I Would...” - Write and videotape an oral presentation of a 10-minute campaign speech about what you would work to accomplish if you were elected as Governor of the State of Mississippi.

Advertising: “Vote for Me” - Write and digitally record a 60-second television commercial and a 30-second radio spot to persuade voters to elect you as Governor of Mississippi.

Political Campaign: “Vote for ME” - Design a package of campaign materials (posters, brochure, advertisements, radio/tv commercials, push cards) for your own political campaign for state office. Identify your key issues, your stance on current events, your suggestions for improving state government, etc. Discuss what characteristics and background you have that qualify you to hold office. Choose your campaign colors and symbols. Write a brief description of how your print media campaign would help inform and persuade potential supporters to vote for you.

SCHOOLWIDE/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Candidate Forums

Voter Registration Drives

Don't Forget to Vote Reminder Campaigns

Mock Campaign Debates

School-wide Mock Elections

Vote in Honor of a Veteran Observances