



Voter ID, Easy and Free

Objective: Introduce students to the process of voting in Mississippi with the new Voter ID requirement.

Materials: supplemental materials (voter registration form) index cards, digital camera, printer, tape, ink pen

Introduction

On June 3, 2014, Mississippi's new Voter ID law went into effect. Voters must now present an acceptable form of photo ID when voting at the polls. More than 400,000 voters went to the polls on June 3. Only 503 did not present a photo ID, and only 305 did not return to their local circuit clerk within 7 days with a valid ID. That accounts for less than 1/10 of 1% of voters who did not have an acceptable ID to cast a vote.

If anyone does not have an acceptable form of ID (listed below), he or she may contact their local circuit clerk's office and if they are a registered voter, apply for a free voter identification card. Acceptable forms of photo identification that can be used to vote are:

- A driver's license
- A government-issued photo ID card
- A U.S. passport
- A government-issued employee identification card
- A firearms license
- A student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university, college or community/junior college
 - A U.S. military ID
 - A tribal photo ID
 - Any other photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the United States government or any state's government
- A Mississippi Voter Identification card

***High school students may use student photo ID cards issued by their respective high school or county school district.

Activity I A- Let's get registered (for teachers of students 17 and 18+)

High school juniors and seniors who are, or will be, 18 before the next election may register to vote. If you are a teacher with students in this age range, please pass out the voter registration form to your class (found in supplemental materials). We recommend you request your local circuit clerk to come speak to your class about the importance of voting and being involved in government. The forms can be mailed to your local circuit clerk's office to complete the registration. Registrants should receive a Voter Registration Card at the address listed on their

application. Remind students that the registration card only provides information on where a person goes to cast their ballot and does not count as an acceptable form of photo identification on Election Day.

Activity I B- Let's Get Registered (for teachers of students ineligible to vote as of Nov 4, 2014)

Explain to students when you turn 18, you do not automatically get to vote. Everyone is required to register. Just as you cannot drive without first completing the driver's test, it is not an automatic privilege. Unlike driving, however, there is no test to be eligible to vote.

1. Have students voice the requirements to be able to vote. (*must 18 years old, must be a U.S. citizen, must be a resident of Mississippi and of your county for at 30 days, must not have been declared mentally incompetent by a court, and may not have been convicted of a felony*) More information about voter eligibility and registration can be found on the DMV.org website <http://www.dmv.org/ms-mississippi/voter-registration.php#Voter-Eligibility-in-Mississippi>
2. Have students create a voter registration form. As a class, decide what should be included on it. Why are these things important in upholding the eligibility guidelines?
3. After each student has created the classroom registration form, have them complete the form (for security purposes, please make sure students do not list their entire social security number on the form) and turn it in.
4. If your school is going to participate school-wide in the PTV mock election, have students host a Mock Voter Registration drive during homeroom, lunch or break time. Have each set of forms organized in alphabetical order by each home room so it is easy to organize.
5. Have students take spiral notebooks and create poll books similar to what you would see in an actual precinct. Have poll books organized by grade/homeroom and in alphabetical order so name are easy to find. Separate the notebooks so several people can sign in at a time on Election Day.

Activity II- Voter ID, Easy and Free

1. Give each student a blank blue index card. Have each student stand up against the board and have their picture taken. Print out the pictures no larger than 1 inch in diameter (this can be on regular print paper) and provide to each student. Have students tape or glue their photo to the index card.
2. Explain that in Mississippi, in order to cast your ballot, you are now required to show some sort of identification. (go over the list at the top of the lesson as to what is acceptable). Since these students will be voting in the PTV mock election, they will need an ID.
3. Have each student create an ID to mimic one of the type of ID you went over from the list of acceptable forms of ID including personal information (name, address, birthdate, etc.) that is located on the ID card the student is replicating. Explain that in real life, if

someone does not have any of these forms of ID, they can visit the county circuit clerk's office and have an ID made for free to use on Election Day.

4. Take up the IDs students create and save them for Mock Election Day.
5. You may find more information about Voter ID at www.msvoterid.gov.