



Name: _____

Date: _____

Midterm Election Project Guide

Directions: Using the Internet and other primary library resources including local and regional newspapers and magazines, conduct research about a mid-year election issue and how it will impact local voters. Be sure to examine all sides of the issue and varying points of view about the topic as you complete your research. Write complete answers to each question and be sure to document your sources of information, particularly facts and statistics and the use of quotes.

Midterm Election Topic being researched: _____

1. What are the various points of view/opinions about this election topic? List them below and document the source of this information in the appropriate column.

Point of View	Source Documentation

2. What are the facts about this election topic. Record them below and document the source of information in the appropriate area.

Facts	Source Documentation

3. In what ways could local residents/voters be **directly** impacted by the results of this midterm election topic? List as many specific examples as possible.

4. In what ways could local residents/voters be **indirectly** impacted by the results of this midterm election topic? List as many specific examples as possible.

5. What are your feelings/opinions about this topic and how it relates to the midterm elections?

6. Do you think the midterm election topic will have a significant impact on national, state, or local election results? Explain why.

7. In the space below, record any additional information or ideas you have related to this midterm election topic.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Midterm Election Project Guide (continued)

Your research is completed, and you have participated in a pairs/small group discussion about your group's findings, ideas, and opinions about your midterm election topic. Now you will work together to create a project that can be used to teach others about this midterm election issue. Specific information and steps are provided below.

- Your goal is to share factual information along with your group's opinions about the midterm election issue you have researched.
- The project should be very high quality and reflect thought and creativity
- In your project, the following should be easily identifiable:
 - the mid-year election issue you are discussing
 - the group's opinions about this issue
 - facts, statistics, case studies, or other information that can be used to support opinions
 - how people in your area may be impacted by this issue either directly or indirectly by this midterm election issue
 - how you think this mid-year election issue will impact the nation as a whole

The following list contains ideas for the types of projects that could be created and shared with others:

- podcasts**, videos, or audio-taped:
 - editorials
 - moderated debates showing both sides of the election issue
 - student interviews featuring the opinions and ideas of students within the group
 - public service announcements
 - political advertisements
 - performance of original songs that reflect the opinions surrounding the election issue
 - OTHER: see the teacher to discuss other ideas your pair/group would like to develop

**For specific information about podcasting, see "Podcasting—Sharing Your Ideas About Featured Topics and Issues" at <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/media/podcasting.html>. Pay special attention to Part 3: Producing Your Own Podcast

When creating your project, keep the following guidelines in mind:

- The project should be 1 to 5 minutes in length
- All group members should be actively involved in the production of the project
- All group members should have a speaking role of some kind as part of the project
- The ideas and opinions of each group member should be included in the project
- Projects should reflect high quality, meaning they are easily to see and hear when being viewed or heard
- All students will complete a **Project Ballot** that provides each group with specific feedback about their project
- All students will complete a **Project Ballot** to select what they believe is the best project in the class to be sent to NewsHour Extra for possible use in their on-air or Web site content

Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Ballot

Directions: As you listen to or view each of the group projects, complete the ballot below. Your first priority is to provide each pair/group with feedback about their project. After all presentations have been made, you will cast your ballot for the project you think should be submitted to NewsHour Extra for use in their programming or on the Web site.

Pair/Group Members	Midterm Election Topic	Pair/Group's Opinions about the Topic	What was the best thing about this project?	What suggestions do you have for improving this project?

Write the names of the pair/group members whose project should be submitted to NewsHour Extra. _____