



Featured Widget/Web Site

Take the **Let's Get Political Quiz** to find out what kind of political personality you have.

1.2 Lesson Plan: Let's Get Political

Overview

Students read about civic engagement and take an interactive quiz that measures their political personalities. They then discuss their quiz results and the different ways that people participate in the process of citizenship. Students reflect on their learning on their blogs.

Key Skills

NCSS Civic Ideas and Practices Expectations: Compare and contrast various the role of citizen in relation to government across various forms of government past and present

McREL Language Arts Standards:

Standard 1.11 (Level IV): Write a reflective composition (e.g., uses personal experience as a basis for reflection on some aspect of life, draws abstract comparisons between specific incidents and abstract concepts, maintains a balance between describing incidents and relating them to more general abstract ideas that illustrate personal beliefs, moves from specific examples to generalizations about life);

Standard 5: Use the general skills and strategies of the reading process;

Standard 8.3 (Level IV): Uses a variety of strategies to enhance listening comprehension (e.g., focuses attention on message, monitors message for clarity and understanding, asks relevant questions, provides verbal and nonverbal feedback, notes cues such as change of pace or particular words that indicate a new point is about to be made; uses abbreviation system to record information quickly; selects and organizes essential information)

ISTE NETS Standard: 1c: Creativity and Innovation: use models and simulations to explore complex systems and issues

Grades 7–12

Time Estimate One 45-minute class period

Required Resources Computers with Internet access

Preparation

Prior to teaching this lesson, bookmark the Web site used in the lesson on each computer in your classroom, or upload the link to an online bookmarking tool such as del.icio.us (del.icio.us). Preview the Web site to make certain that it is appropriate for your students. Make copies of **Worksheet 1.2** for all students.

Note: The quiz is a widget, which means that you can embed it on a class Web site or blog. You may wish to do this before class and direct students to access the quiz through your local site. You may also choose to have students embed the widget on their own blogs before or after taking the quiz.

Procedure

- 1. Grab Interest.** Ask: Who takes online quizzes? What do you like and/or dislike about online quizzes? Can you learn about yourself with an online quiz? Why or why not?
- 2. Read and discuss.** Distribute **Worksheet 1.2** and ask students to read the first few paragraphs silently, or ask for volunteers to read them aloud. Ask one or more students to define civic engagement in their own words.
- 3. Take the quiz.** Direct students to take the online quiz (www.pbsteachers.org/vote_2008/blueprint/access). Explain that they should print out their results when they are finished.
- 4. Discuss.** Hold a large-group discussion using the questions on the handout. (**Note:** Depending on your students, you may want to use small group discussion or partners so that everyone can participate actively.) At the end of the discussion, invite students to summarize some key ideas.
- 5. BLOG THIS!** Students create a blog entry based upon their quiz results and class discussion. Students should create a snappy title for this first entry.

Stimulate student reflection with questions. For example:

- What did your quiz results reveal about your style of political engagement? How do you feel about your results?
- How do you feel about politics in general? Where does your attitude come from?
- What are some political facts or events that have made an impression on you? What political issues matter to you?
- Are you happy with how much you know and care about politics? Why or why not?

Assessment

You may choose to have students write their answers to one or more of the discussion questions related to the quiz. Additionally, you can assess students' first blog entries for understanding and engagement. You might also consider having students complete the quiz at the beginning and end of a unit of study and reflect upon any changes they observe.

