What do I Care About?

Who Votes & Why?

How to Choose My Plan

My Voter ID

Things to do:
1.
2.
3.

Breathe in! Breathe Out!

Santa Clara County Office of Education

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE
Customize the cover of your notebook with any of the following images. (Copy an image and paste to slide 1.)

*For more options go to: Amplifier
As you read in this notebook, feel free to copy and paste any of these icons onto the pages in a way that makes sense to you.

Tip: Use the fill tool to change the color.

You can also use any emoji as an icon!
And of course it resizes without losing quality.

Thanks to: Hand-Drawn Goods Icons
License: Creative Commons Attribution
You may also choose to use these sticky notes or any Google Slides shapes become text boxes when you double click inside.

I wonder...

This notebook belongs to:

______________________________________

Read & Write Chrome extension for accessibility

(Video Tutorial)
The Santa Clara County Office of Education worked with community partners to provide this non-partisan, easy to use curriculum designed to motivate students to think about voting and what matters most to them. It includes these big ideas inside:

- **What do I Care About?**
  - Students will identify their personal values and the issues that matter most to them, even if they are not eligible to vote at this time.

- **Who Votes and Why?**
  - Students will investigate others' motivation for voting and gain a deeper understanding of its importance in a democracy; as well as, understand the ideals of various political parties.

- **How do I Choose?**
  - Students will analyze political speeches and news media; in addition to, explore the local ballot for the upcoming election and understand how their personal values and issues that matter most to them are influential in how they vote.

- **What's My Plan?**
  - Students will understand the voting process and create their own plan for election day.

- **My Voter ID?**
  - Students will create a personal scrapbook page that identifies who they are as a potential voter.

Explore, learn, and reflect on who you are, your personal values, the issues you care most about, and how to become involved in our democracy.

Mary Ann Dewan
County Superintendent of Schools
Digital Notebook
Tools

Vocabulary
Use this section to record any vocabulary words that need to be defined in order to help with your understanding of this topic.

Evaluating Sources
Use this section as a tool to help determine if a resource that you come across is credible or not.

Civic Discourse
Use this section as a tool to prepare for and practice civic discourse and deliberation.
Directions: Type the words that closely relate to voting. List words you know, words you learn as you read and research. Often, having words readily available can help you plug ideas into search engines. Let’s see how often you can use your new words in your writing and speaking!

Come back to this section at any time to add new vocabulary words.

(Delete this note after reading.)
Directions: Type the vocabulary word into the blue rectangle. Then fill in each box, with a definition, characteristics, examples, and visual of this word.
# Evaluating Sources

1. What makes a source on your social media feed click bait? How can you tell?

2. What makes a source credible? Click on link below and watch video and review CUP CAKES questions.

## CUP CAKES Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>How do the documents <em>corroborate</em> (agree) or <em>conflict</em> (disagree) with each other?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| C  | - When, where, AND for whom was the source created?  
   | - Describe events and developments that occurred before, during, or continue after the time frame in multiple sentences |
| A  | - Identify the *author* of the source and what is the medium (article, speech, news conference etc)  
   | - What is the author’s occupation and background?  
   | - What was the author’s purpose for writing this document?  
   | - Who was the author’s intended audience? |
| K  | What is the *claim* or *claims*?  
   | What was the author’s point of view on the topic? |
| E  | What *evidence* does the author use to support the claim(s)?  
   | Is that evidence credible (believable)? Explain. |
| S  | What is the *significance* of the source? Why might it matter that the American public understand about the topic? |
The CUP CAKES questions and this resource can be used together to help you evaluate your sources.

### HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consider the Source</th>
<th>Read Beyond</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.</td>
<td>Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What’s the whole story?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check the Author</th>
<th>Supporting Sources?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?</td>
<td>Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check the Date</th>
<th>Is it a joke?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reposting old news stories doesn’t mean they’re relevant to current events.</td>
<td>If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check Your Biases</th>
<th>Ask the Experts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.</td>
<td>Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Jot down your initial reactions to your sources for your commentary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How is your Source 1 credible?</th>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>How is Source 2 credible?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How is Source 3 credible?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
What Matters to Me?
Analyzing Persuasive Commentary

Directions: Listen or watch a persuasive commentary, then analyze it by answering the questions

Links persuasive commentary examples:
Let’s Talk About Welcoming Immigrants (video example)
Let’s Talk About Protecting Public Land (audio example)
Let’s Talk About Protecting National Parks & Climate Change (audio example)
Let’s Talk About Making Healthcare More Accessible (video example)

1. What motivated the author to choose this topic? How can you tell?

2. What motivated the author to choose this topic? How can you tell?

3. What is the author’s claim or call to action? What does s/he want to change?
What is Civic Discourse?

*Civic replaced the word civil, from the original quote

Civic discourse is described in the History-Social Science Framework as:

- The use of documents and artifacts that help foster the understanding that people have different perspectives

**In order to:**
- Develop the capacity to analyze and evaluate them
- Make an argument based upon evidence that deepens understanding

**By:**
- Engaging in civic discourse to promote the common good

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Reflection on Ground Rules for Public Discussion

1. I think I am skilled at rule #______ because
2. It bothers me when people do not follow rule #______ because
3. I think I need to practice rule #______ because

---

The Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy

**Ground Rules for Public Discussion**

1. Seek understanding and common ground
2. Expect and explore conflicting viewpoints
3. Give everyone opportunity to speak
4. Listen respectfully and thoughtfully
5. Appreciate communication differences
6. Appreciate communication differences
7. Stay focused on issues
8. Respect time limits

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Resources for Civic Discourse & Deliberation

6 Democratic Principles
Debate, Discussion, Deliberative Discourse
What is Public Deliberation?
Structure of A Forum
Deliberating Controversial Political Issues: Concepts, Language, & Questions to Use

Practice distinguishing topics, current events, problems, issues.

Topic=
Current Event=
Problem=
Issue=

What is public policy?

What Are the Characteristics of A Controversial Issue? They Are:

- **Authentic questions** about the kinds of public policies that should be adopted to address public problems
  - What should we do about it?
  - What policy should we propose?
  - Not hypothetical
- Require **deliberation** that centers on the following questions:
  - Will the proposed policy have the desired effect?
  - Will it solve the problem(s), without creating an even larger problem(s)?
- Contemporary
- Open

Practice preparing to deliberate a controversial issue.

Topic=
Problem=

What should we do about it? (List multiple ideas)

What policy should we propose?
What Are the Characteristics of A Constitutional Issue?

- Questions about the meaning of the Constitution that spark significant disagreement such as:
  - Can the government exercise power in a particular way without violating the Constitution?
  - Must the government act in a certain way because of the Constitution?

Constitutional Issue: Is Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act constitutional?

Shelby County, Ala. v. Holder

1) Listen to 60 Second Civics to learn more.
2) In the space below, write 3-5 bullet points that explain the Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder case.

1) Read the facts of the case: Facts Shelby County, Ala. v. Holder
2) For additional background information read: Vox: How Shelby County v. Holder Upended Voting Rights In America
3) Answer the following questions:
   - What was the purpose of the 1965 Voting Rights Act?
   - What aspect of the Voting Rights Act did Shelby County challenge?

4) Based on the article, or the video below, list 3 ways Shelby County, Ala. v. Holder impacted voting rights in the US:

5) What is your perspective on the impact of Shelby County, Ala. v. Holder?
What Do I Care About?

I will identify personal values and the issues that matter most, even if I am not eligible to vote at this time.
VOTING MATTERS. YOUNG VOTERS MATTER.
YOUR VOTE MATTERS.

Voting Matters. The United States Constitution starts with the words, “We, the People…” But when it was written, “The People” only included white men who owned property. Everyone else was seen as “The Other”. Free and enslaved Black people and Native Americans, all women, and white men without property were excluded from the “We”. The history of this country is the story of disenfranchised peoples fighting to live freely without fear, to be treated as equals, and to have an equal say in the decisions affecting them and their communities -- that is, to belong.

We all have a stake in expanding the “We” in civic life. Voting is one way to express your values and views about policy issues and candidates. It is a way to register the needs and aspirations of you, your family and your community. It is both a right and privilege.
YOUR VOTE AND KEY ISSUES

Elected officials make decisions that affect all of these issues. By voting, you can have a say in who’s making those decisions.

Why would YOU want to vote?

What questions do you have about being able to vote in the next election? Ask as many questions as you can.

What do you understand differently now?
We all have a stake in expanding the “We” in civic life. Voting is one way to express your values and views about policy issues and candidates. It is a way to register the needs and aspirations of you, your family and your community. Voting is both a right and privilege.

Directions: Take a look at each topic and decide if it is a topic that is or is not important to you by dragging the ✗ in the box. If you are not sure, use the talking bubbles to type in your thoughts and questions that you may have about that topic. Use the numbers to rank the order of importance. One has been done as an example.

This is an example: Delete the ✗ and to make your own choices.
Taking a stance on an issue can be challenging. There are some issues we are sure of our choice, other issues take longer to determine where we stand. Sometimes, we do not know enough about an issue, or we agree with multiple and competing stances. The quiz on the website “I Side With…”, may take you quite a while to get through, and that is OKAY! Also, it might be interesting to revisit the quiz over time to see if any of your stances change as you learn and experience more.

Reflection: How did the quiz go? What resonated with you? Were you at ease or did you find it challenging? Why? What will you do the same/change next time?
LEADERSHIP CRITERIA

THE U.S. PRESIDENT’S JOB DESCRIPTION
(according to Article 2 of the U.S. Constitution)

The President’s Powers:

- Serves as Commander in Chief of the armed forces
- Executes and enforces the laws created by Congress
- Appoints Cabinet members, ambassadors, Supreme Court judges with the Advice and Consent of the Senate
- Signs legislation into law or vetoes bills enacted by Congress (subject to override)
- Negotiates and signs treaties (with the advice and consent of the Senate)
- Issues executive orders to clarify and further existing laws
- Extends pardons and clemencies for federal crimes, except impeachment

The President’s Responsibilities

- Gives Congress information of the State of the Union, “from time to time”
- Asks Congress to consider measures s/he judges “necessary and expedient”

The President’s Qualifications

- Be 35 years of age
- Be a natural born citizen
- Have lived in the US for at least 14 years
Directions: Think about the experience, qualities and personal attributes that you want in a leader. Highlight, circle or check the boxes that are most important to you.

*Insert a text box to fill in any other answers that you may have.

Copy and paste (or duplicate) these shapes if you would like to use them to mark your choices:

1. **Previous Experience:** ✓ ✓ ✓
   Please pick the top 3 past experiences you value most in a President.
   - □ Academic excellence
   - □ Community organizing
   - □ Community service
   - □ Domestic policy experience
   - □ Executive experience
   - □ Governance experience
   - □ International experience
   - □ Legislative experience
   - □ Military experience
   - □ Other ___________________
   - □ Other ___________________

2. **Leadership Qualities/Values:** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
   Please pick the top 5 qualities you value most in a President.
   - □ Ambitious
   - □ Analytical
   - □ Bold/Visionary
   - □ Charismatic
   - □ Confident
   - □ Decisive
   - □ Disciplined
   - □ Empathic
   - □ Fair
   - □ Flexible/adaptable
   - □ Humility
   - □ Integrity
   - □ Pragmatic
   - □ Relationship builder
   - □ Resilient
   - □ Strong communicator
   - □ Other ___________________
   - □ Other ___________________

3. **Personal Attributes:** ✓ ✓ ✓
   Please pick the top 3 personal attributes you value in a President.
   - □ Attractive
   - □ Gender (preference: ___)
   - □ Healthy
   - □ Married
   - □ Parent
   - □ Pet Owner
   - □ Religious
   - □ Strong family lineage
   - □ Successful
   - □ Young (under 55)
   - □ Other ___________________
   - □ Other ___________________
I will investigate others' motivation for voting and gain a deeper understanding of its importance in a democracy; as well as, understand the ideals of various political parties.
Explore the website and watch the videos to complete the prompt on the next page.
Interview A Voter

1. Do you remember the first time you voted? Can you tell me what you remember?

2. How did you learn how to vote? Who taught/helped you?

3. How do you prefer to vote? Mail in ballot? Drop box? Go to the polls? Why?

4. What do you do when you struggle to make a decision on a proposition, measure, or candidate?

5. Why do you vote?
Reflection

Directions: What are some things that you learned from the voter that you interviewed? What did you learn about yourself and/or others? How can having conversations like this build relationships and/or empathy?
I will analyze political speeches and news media; in addition to, explore the local ballot for the upcoming election and understand how my personal values and issues that matter most to me are influential in how I vote.
Choose a Political Party (Or Not)

In California, when you register to vote, you can choose your party affiliation as American Independent Party, Democratic Party, Green Party, Libertarian Party, Peace and Freedom Party Republican Party, or No Party Preference. Before you make a choice, read each party’s political platform and positions, consider the experience and accomplishments of its candidates and officeholders, and make an informed decision. If none of the qualified political parties meet your needs, you can opt to register as No Party Preference (NPP).

For presidential primary elections and caucuses, NPP voters will receive a “non-partisan” ballot that does not include presidential candidates. A nonpartisan ballot contains only the names of candidates for voter-nominated offices and local nonpartisan offices and measures. However, NPP voters may vote in a political party’s partisan election if the political party authorizes NPP voters to vote in the next presidential primary election. An NPP voter may request the ballot of one of the political parties that authorizes NPP voters to vote in the presidential primary election.

Non-Partisan words or actions don’t show allegiance to any political party. They are politically neutral.
Use these guiding questions to help focus you as you learn about your assigned political platform. (Double click in the shape to type.)

1. Skim the first 3-5 pages of the platform. What you notice about how the information is organized?

2. Are the main topics clearly organized? List 3 topics.

3. Based on the first 3-5 pages, what are your initial thoughts/questions/responses to the platform?

4. Read one of the planks closely: A) write a short summary of the plank; B) what are your thoughts/questions/responses?

5. Choose another plank to read closely: A) write a short summary of the plank; B) what are your thoughts/questions/responses?

6. Skim the rest of the document. Write down 2-3 details, things that surprised you, or questions.

7. Based on this first interaction with the party platform, do you think this is a political party you are interested in joining? Why or why not?

**Vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Plank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A party platform is a set of principles, goals, and strategies designed to address pressing political issues.</td>
<td>Each party's platform is broken down into &quot;planks,&quot; or declarations that speak to each specific issue.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use these pages to jot down key ideas, or questions about each political party as you listen, and learn, from your peers.

*Reformat this page in any way that helps you organize your thoughts.
Challenge: Now that you’ve learned about political parties, go back to slide 18: “Topics that are Important to Me.” Drag the button of the political party/parties next to the topics that each party cares about most.

Select the political party you plan on registering with & drag their icon here. If you are not registering with a party, leave this space blank.

How to choose a political party:
- Choose a political party that has the same general views you do. For example, some political parties think that government should do more for people. Others feel that government should make it easier for people to do things for themselves.
- If you do not want to join a political party, mark that box on your voter registration form. This is called “no party preference.” Know that if you do, you may have limited choices for party candidates in Presidential primary elections.
- You can change your political party registration at any time. Just fill out a new voter registration form and check a different party box. The deadline to change your party is 15 days before the election.

If you are not registered with a political party and want to vote for a Presidential candidate from a party that lets you vote with their ballot, you must ask for that ballot when you go to your polling place on election day. If you plan to vote by mail, you must write on the application the name of the political party whose ballot you want to use.

Some parties require you to be registered in their party to vote for their candidates in a Presidential primary. If you want to vote for one of these candidates, fill out a new registration form to join that party by the registration deadline 15 days before the election. You can register to vote online through the Secretary of State’s website, registertovote.ca.gov.
My Plan

I will understand the voting process and create my own plan for election day.
Your Vote Matters.

We often believe that our individual votes can’t make a difference. We buy into the narrative that the political process, though participatory, is above and beyond us, that the ballot is too complicated for us to understand. Or that there are people who know more about politics and that makes us unqualified. And in many cases, due to gerrymandering and voter suppression tactics, many people of color and college students have their voting power watered down or are prevented from voting altogether. All of these ways of excluding eligible voters means that our election system does not voice the full diversity of viewpoints in the country.

Most likely, there will be things on the ballot that affect you and your community. Voting gives you the opportunity to have a say in what services and funding will be available for your community and other communities and who will represent you and your community in government. Talking to your friends, family, and community members about what’s at stake on the ballot gives you the power to organize and to be far more than one vote.

Go to votersedge.org to learn about what will be on the ballot where you are registered to vote or live. Use the information to make choices on the propositions you see on the right page of your notebook.

California Voter Guide
Find in-depth information about what’s on your ballot.

Enter your address (optional):
Ex. 123 Main St

Find my ballot

- Use your address to get a personalized ballot.
- Get info on candidates, measures, and who supports them.
- Keep track of your choices and use them to vote.

Register by October 19 to vote in the November 3 General Election.

Every registered voter will receive a ballot in the mail this year.

Check your registration status.

Find my code.

To get voting materials in a language other than English, make that choice in votersedge.ca.gov.

Learn More

State of California

Proposition 14 — Stem Cell Research

Proposition 15 — Taxes on Commercial Property

Proposition 16 — Government Preferences: Diversity

Proposition 17 — Suffrage: Parolees

Proposition 18 — Suffrage: 17-Year-Olds

Proposition 19 — Property Taxes: Transfers

Proposition 20 — Sentencing, DNA Samples

Proposition 21 — Rent Control

Proposition 22 — Employment Classification: Independent Contractors

Proposition 23 — Kidney Dialysis

Proposition 24 — Consumer Privacy

Easy Voter Guide in 5 languages

Copy and paste into the boxes below when you have decided.

32
Reflection

**Directions:** What are the top two (2) propositions on the ballot that you care most about? Why? Type in the space below or use the other page to share your thoughts in another creative way. (Video, audio, sketch, graphic, etc.)

**Date:**
FIRST TIME VOTER CHECKLIST
We’ve taken the guesswork out of voting!

Watch this step by step video guide on how to register to vote.

1. REGISTER TO VOTE
It only takes 2 minutes to register. Get started by using our easy, online tool.

2. FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE
Find out where you can vote in person on Election Day by entering your address here. Also, learn about early and absentee voting options. See what your state allows.

Check to see if you are already registered to vote: Vote.org

3. SEE WHAT’S ON YOUR BALLOT
Learn where candidates running for office in your area stand on the issues, and about the ballot measures on your ballot by checking out our voters’ guide.

4. CHECK IF YOU NEED AN ID TO VOTE
Some states require you bring your ID to vote. See if your state requires an ID here.

5. VOTE!
Cast your ballot and let your voice be heard! Nervous about what it will be like at the polls? No need to fear! We have information on the voting machines used in your state, and you can bring a filled in (and printed) voters’ guide with you into the booth!
I plan to vote:
- at the polls
- by mail
- at the ballot dropbox

The address of my polling place is:

The presidential candidate who aligns with my leadership criteria is:

The political party that is most aligned with what matters to me is:

I am not choosing a political party at this time because:

The address of my polling place is:

I used Voter’s Edge to track all of my decisions for this election.

My “why” for voting or using my voice is:

If I want to know my rights as a voter, I will check here:
- Know Your Voting Rights
- California Voter Bill of Rights

If I need to access voting material in other languages, I can visit Voter’s Edge

I cannot vote at the this time, I will use my voice to:
- advocate for the issues I care about
- participate in community decision making
- volunteer on a political campaign
- speak to friends & family about ballot issues

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- advocate for the issues I care about
- participate in community decision making
- volunteer on a political campaign
- speak to friends & family about ballot issues
I will create a personal scrapbook page that identifies who I am as a potential voter.
My Voter Identity Reflection

Directions: What have I learned about myself as a voter/future-voter?
Type in the space below or use the other page to share your thoughts in another creative way. (Video, audio, sketch, graphic, etc.)

Date:
The Santa Clara County Office of Education would like to thank our partners in the effort to increase youth voter registration.

Additional Resources for Santa Clara County & Election 2020

On October 5, 2020, early voting will begin at The Registrar of Voters Office and continue through Election Day. Voters who prefer to vote in person can still do so at any of the more than 100 Vote Centers that will be open throughout Santa Clara County starting October 31, 2020.

Adhering to COVID-19 protocols, the Vote Centers will offer sanitary, in-person options for a full spectrum of services including language and accessibility assistance. For additional information visit scvote.org/voterschoice or call 1-866-430-VOTE (8683). A few dates to keep in mind:

- National Voter Registration Day, Sept 22, 2020
- Early voting starts Oct 5, 2020 at The Registrar of Voters Office
- Vote Centers open Oct 31, 2020
- Election day Nov 3, 2020