

TEACHER-TO-TEACHER LESSON PLAN

GET STARTED

Students will participate in a tableau activity related to the steps of a presidential election.

BEFORE CLASS

Collect primary source documents to use in the activity and make copies for each group.

TEACH

1. Review the feature “How Government Works: The Race for the Presidency” in Section of Chapter 13 in the textbook.
2. Divide students into teams of 3–4 and give each team a document pack. Document packs should include a primary source related to each step of the presidential race: Starting the Race, Fundraising, Primaries and Caucuses, National Conventions, Debates, and Election Day. Documents may include candidates’ announcements of their intention to run, audio or video clips of the announcement, posters or campaign propaganda, newspaper articles about the campaigns, speeches, photographs, poll results, or other appropriate materials.
3. Explain that a tableau is a frozen image, like a still frame from a movie on pause. In each tableau, each student actor is allowed to say one sentence in response to a question from the audience, but the response may not quote directly from the primary source.
4. Assign a document to each team and give the group time to choose characters and devise a plan for showing the scene. Encourage students to anticipate questions they may be asked, such as “What are you thinking?” or “What are you doing?” They should also identify key details that can be acted out physically.
5. Allow each team to perform their tableau and have other students guess which document they are acting out.

ASSESS AND REMEDIATE

Assess students’ participation using the rubrics at PearsonSuccessNet.com.