



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

VOTE FOR CLASS LEADERS

By Dawn Scroggins

Activity Description

This activity can be used when teaching the *Foundations of Democracy* concepts of authority, responsibility, or (procedural) justice. Students will vote for class leaders to take on responsibilities such as office helper, pencil and crayon passer, door holder, and lunchroom helper. The students in the class will nominate classmates to perform these responsibilities for a week. The children who have been nominated will give a campaign speech explaining to classmates why they are the person for whom to vote. Students will be given a voting template on which to write the names of their choices. Volunteers may sort and count the votes. The children with the most votes will be the helpers for the next week. This activity allows the children to experience the democratic voting process as people in Bubble Land did. If using this activity weekly, the teacher should ensure through the nomination process that every child gets a chance to participate.

Suggested Grade Level

Primary

Estimated Time to Complete

Forty-five minutes weekly

Objectives

Students will

- demonstrate why voting is a method of group decision making;
- act as responsible citizens and participate in the voting process.

Materials Needed

- Ballot boxes made by cutting holes into the lids of the shoeboxes labeled with the jobs (e.g. lunch helper)
- Provide the children with scissors with which to cut the voting slips apart and allow them to put their votes into the appropriate boxes.
- Voting template (provided below)
- Pencils

Office helper	Lunch room helper
Paper and Pencil Passer	Door holder

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Copy one of these for every two children.