

Title	Presidential Elections (3)
Level	Grades 7-12
Students	Social Studies Students
Materials	Textbooks on U.S. government, poster paper, color markers or paints, computer with Internet access, webcam
Purpose	To give students a better understanding of the U.S. presidential elections
Objectives	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the steps in the nomination process. 2. Identify the costs of conducting a campaign, as well as the sources of campaign funds during the nomination and the general election periods. 3. Describe how the electoral college system works, plus its benefits and limitations.
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Divide the class(es) into states. The number of states and the "population" of each will be dictated by class size. There should be states with large and small populations. This will facilitate an explanation of the workings of the electoral college system. Each state should have two electoral votes plus a number based on their population. 2. After forming two political parties, have some students volunteer to be candidates. Give these candidates different amounts of campaign money. They should solicit the support of other citizens who have been given different amounts of money. Students campaign by buying poster paper, paints, television or radio time from the instructor by using their campaign funds. Campaign commercials will be recorded and viewed through the use of Ustream.tv. 3. Throughout the campaigns, one or two political debates between candidates can be incorporated through the use of Ustream.tv. 4. On election day, have students from your class(es), and other classes participating, vote by state. From the popular vote of each state, determine the winner of each state's electoral vote. The candidate that receives the most votes in the state gets the state's entire electoral vote. The candidate who wins a majority of the electoral votes wins the election. After the election, hold a debriefing session. <p>Other activities to incorporate using Ustream.tv:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watch previous campaign commercials and debates 2. Bring real world current issues into the election 3. Study election processes in other countries