

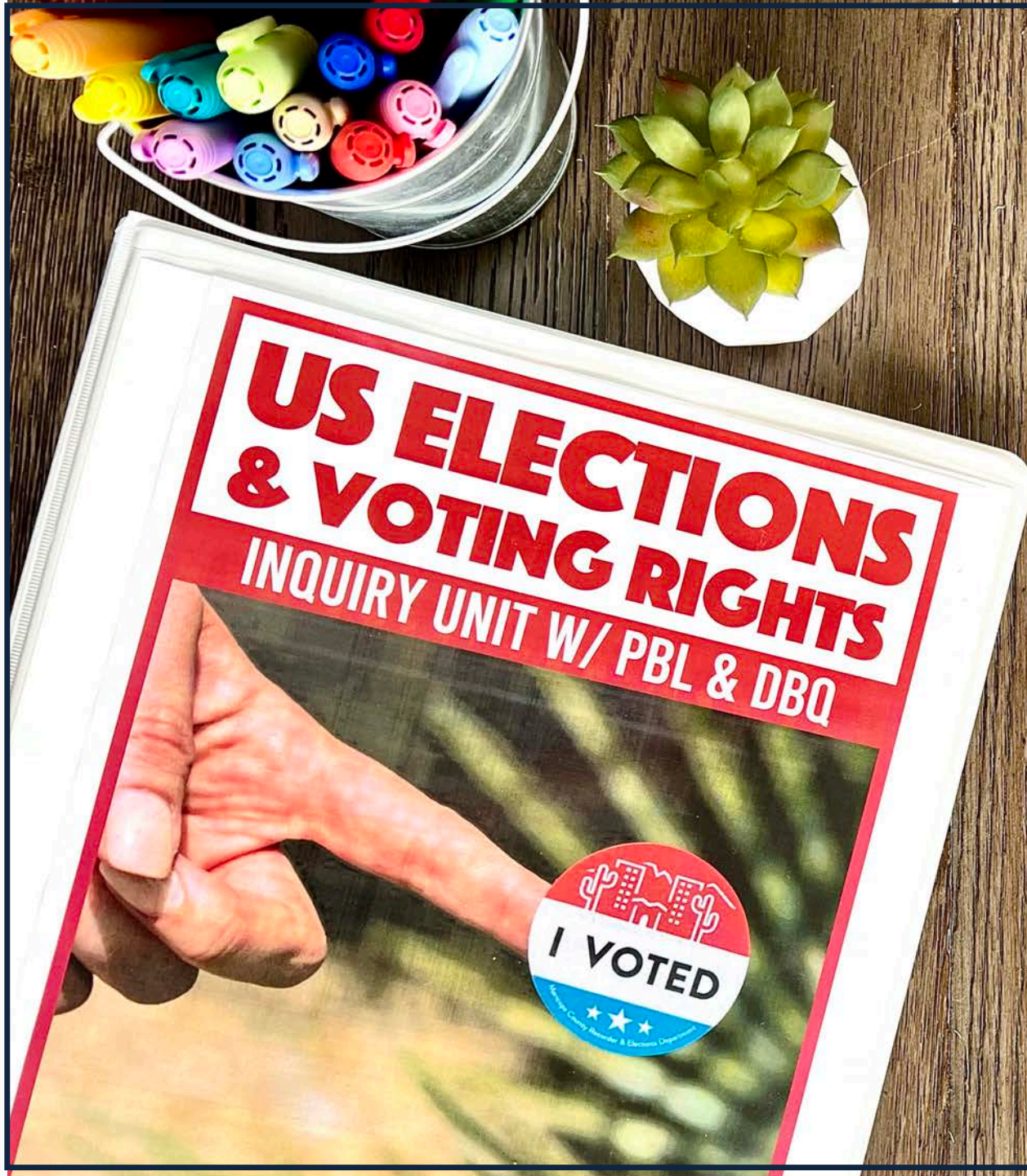
# US ELECTIONS & VOTING RIGHTS

3-5 week inquiry unit

Cover the election **with confidence** and create informed voters with this complete unit.

- ✓ 17 varied student activities plus an instructional slide deck
- ✓ Unit overview and pacing guide
- ✓ Overarching unit and daily lesson inquiry questions to drive the content
- ✓ Step-by-step daily lesson plans with accommodation ideas, lesson takeaways, and detailed answer keys
- ✓ Standards-aligned student "I can..." unit review, and unit note-taking sheets
- ✓ DBQ-style culminating essay assessment and authentic PBL project

**PRINT & DIGITAL OPTIONS INCLUDED**

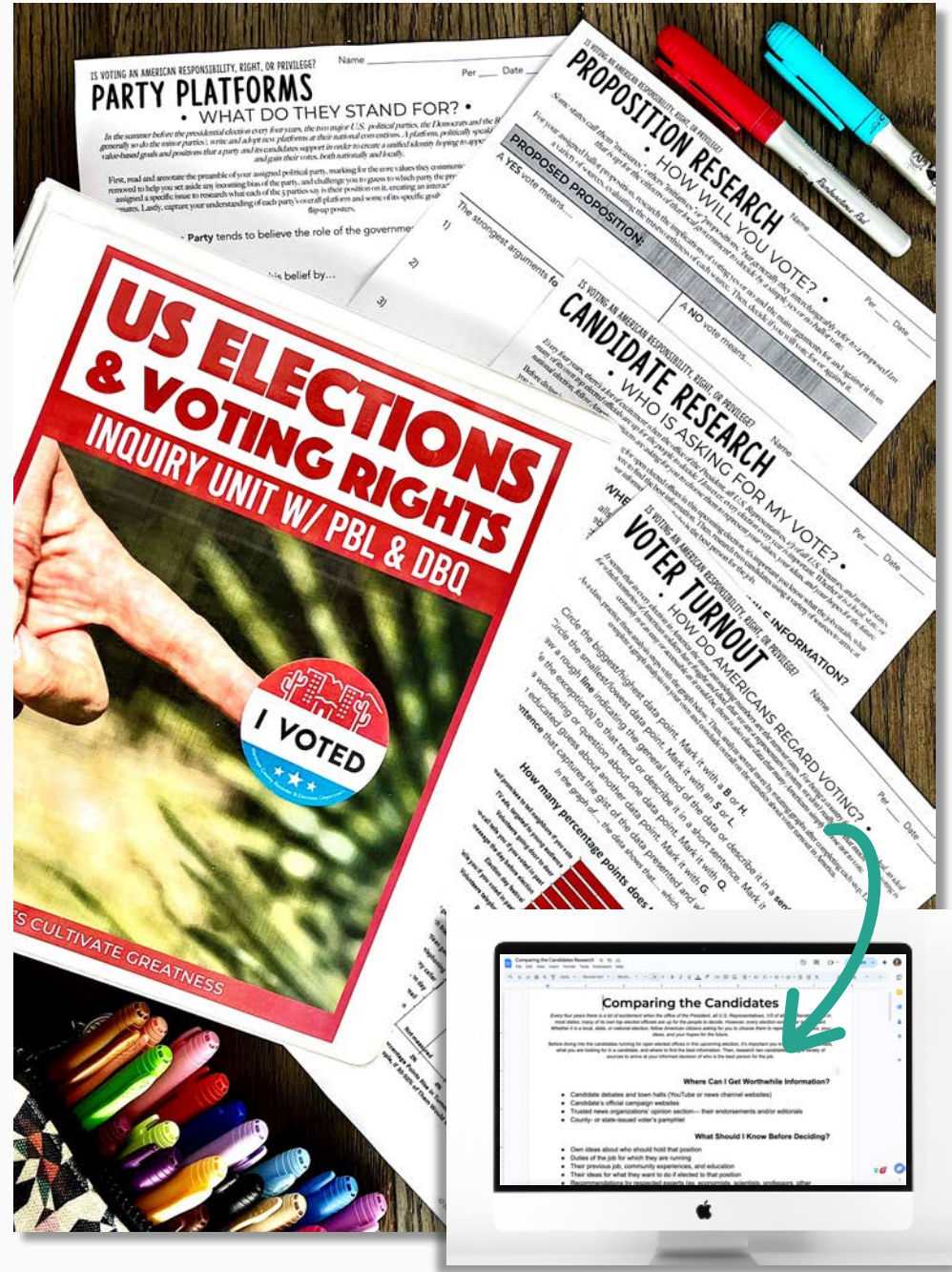




# CIVICS & GOVERNMENT TOPICS *covered*

- ✓ **Voting Rights:** timeline of voting rights access in America, voting amendments (14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>)
- ✓ **Election Laws:** Voting registration and election day procedures where you live, pros & cons of different voting laws (mail-in, photo ID, automatic registration, early voting)
- ✓ **Political Parties:** platforms of Constitution, Democrat, Green, Libertarian, and Republican
- ✓ **Voter Turnout:** reasons, attitudes, and obstacles for high and low voter turnout data
- ✓ **Election Research:** research candidates and races, initiative measures on the upcoming ballot, analyze campaign ad materials

“ This is a great unit – it’s **hard to find higher-level civics projects**, allowing students to discover on their own, while still including a teacher-centered grasp. A **FANTASTIC resource** with everything I needed. - Erin ”

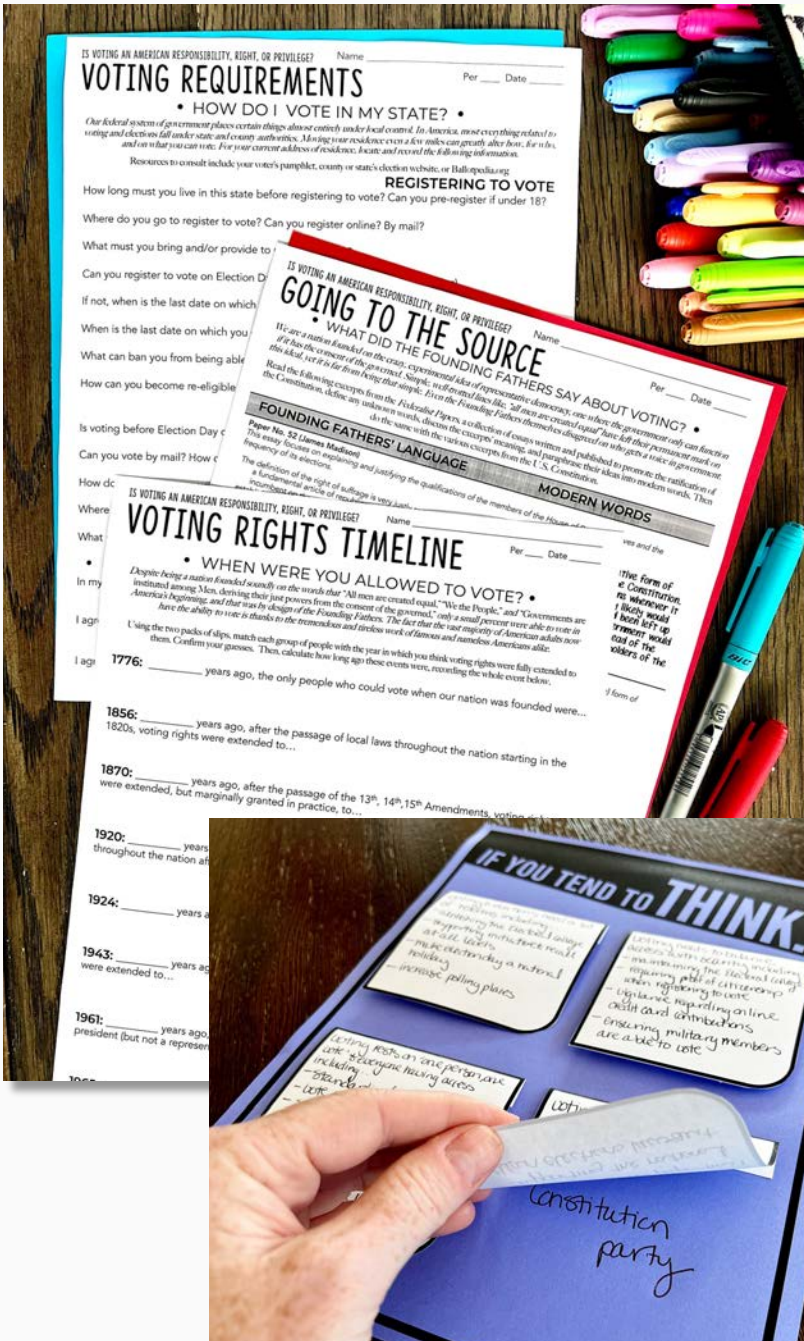




# VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES *included*

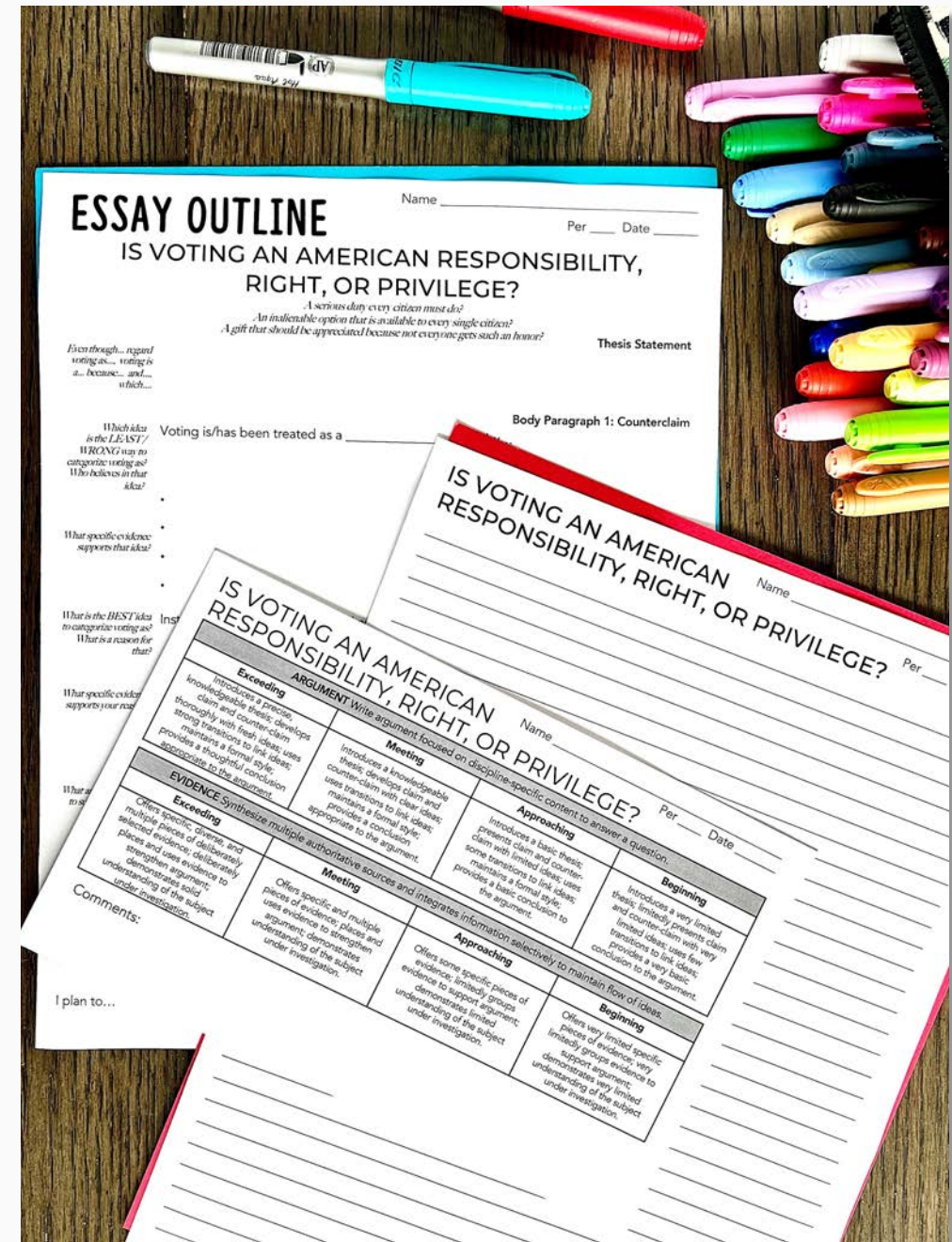
- ✓ **Closely read** founding doc excerpts on voting rights
- ✓ **Explore** political party platforms
- ✓ **Research** current candidates and ballot measures & **discuss** with classmates
- ✓ **Examine** voter party maps, **analyze** voter turnout data
- ✓ **Watch & evaluate** candidate television & print ads
- ✓ **Analyze** political cartoons

“ Although intended for high schoolers, the resources were very helpful for my middles! This bundle, particularly the **student notes/worksheets and teacher guides**, were a **saving grace** for my unit. Thank you for helping this first-year teacher! – **Fellow TPT Seller** ”



# Culminating DBQ ESSAY

- ✓ Unit-long inquiry question with note-taking for deepening understanding
- ✓ Lesson-specific inquiry questions to build toward overarching unit inquiry
- ✓ Collaborative end-of-unit brainstorming exercise
- ✓ Detailed outline template form
- ✓ Step-by-step instructional slides to guide outlining process
- ✓ Thesis & topic sentence templates
- ✓ Essay writing skill how-to handouts
- ✓ Student-friendly rubrics





# MOCK ELECTION

## project

Connect learning about elections and voting rights with practicing being an informed and empowered voter.

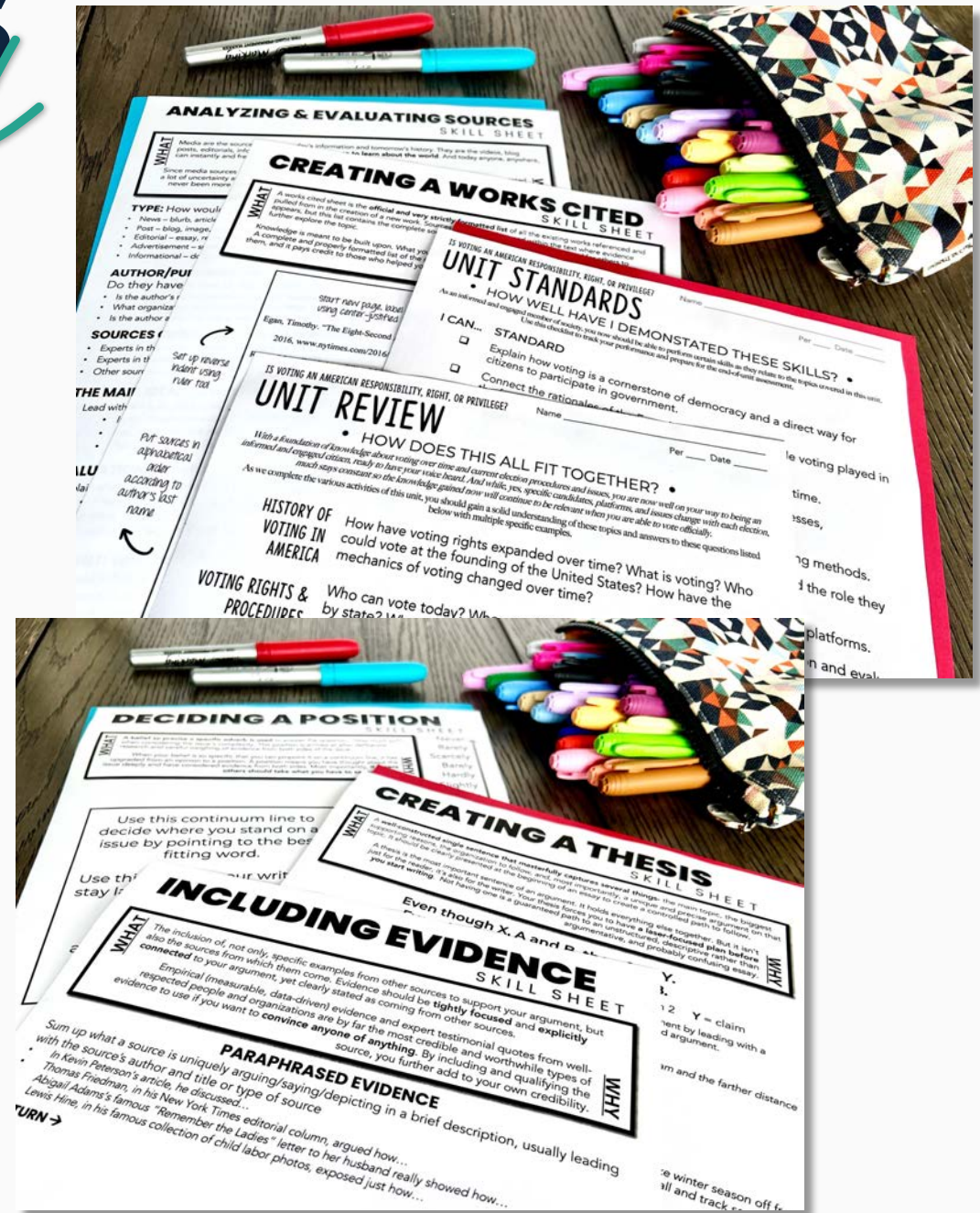
- ✓ Research candidates and office duties on the ballot
- ✓ Analyze campaign materials
- ✓ Research and debate the initiatives on the ballot
- ✓ Learn the voting and election laws and procedures in your state

## THE PERFECT PROJECT FOR ANY UPCOMING ELECTION!



# SUPPORTS & ASSESSMENTS *included*

- ✓ Pacing guide with standards checklist
- ✓ Daily driving questions, bell ringers, & closures
- ✓ Step-by-step lesson plans
- ✓ Lesson background & takeaways
- ✓ Answer keys & rubrics
- ✓ Graphic note-taking sheets
- ✓ Skill how-to handouts
- ✓ Instructional slide deck
- ✓ Print & digital options





# TAKE A PEEK *inside*

# *every* LESSON

**VOTING & ELECTIONS** OVERVIEW

General Notes continued

**Paperless Support Resources**

**Included Option:** Google versions of each student activity are included, both linked in the lesson plans and all together on the **Digital Links** (page 10). Create and save a master copy of each, storing in a separate folder. Then make a second copy to customize and share with students.

**VOTING & ELECTIONS** OVERVIEW

An inquiry unit exploring the cornerstone of democracy.

**Course**  
9th - 12th Government & Civics

**Time**  
3-4 weeks

**Enduring Understanding & Outcomes**

**Driving Question:** Is voting a responsibility, right, or privilege?  
**Greatness is being an engaged and informed member of society.**

**VOTING & ELECTIONS** OVERVIEW

**Suggested Pacing Guide**

Since secondary class periods can range anywhere from 45 to 90 minutes, period length approximates are made for each set of activities. The below estimate accounts for most work being completed in class, with homework being assigned to complete them in. Lastly, current events and political topics tend to generate great unplanned and genuine discussions from students, so allow some flexibility in time to accommodate them.

This unit aligns with standards from several states, which are organized here for your planning purposes.

**VOTING & ELECTIONS** OVERVIEW

**Digital Quick Links**

Here are all the links to Google versions of this unit's student materials in one spot. Links to the relevant files are also included in each day's lesson plans. These are provided so you can offer a paperless option or customize the activity to fit your students' needs and your class requirements. They are under the same copyright laws and terms of use as the open internet, and cannot be shared with anyone besides your direct students. If other teachers are interested in using these activities, direct them to purchase their own copy of this unit.

**VOTING & ELECTIONS** OVERVIEW

**Unit Overview, Hook, & Notes**

**Unit Review & Standards**

**Concept Definition Notes**

**Voting Rights Timeline**

**Instructional Slide Deck**

**VOTING & ELECTIONS** OVERVIEW

**Voting Rights Activities**

**Voting Requirements**

**How We Vote Podcast Notes**

**Going to the Source**

**Party Lines**

**Party Brainstorm & Gallery Walk Notes**

**VOTING & ELECTIONS** OVERVIEW

**Political Parties Activities**

**Political Party Platform Preambles**

**Platform Poster Project Sheets**

**Propositions Podcast Notes**

**Candidate Research**

**Proposition Research & Discussion**

**VOTING & ELECTIONS** OVERVIEW

**Unit Project, Essay & Skill Sheets**

**Mock Ballot Template**

**Political Cartoon & News Media Analysis Forms**

**Essay Outline & Rubrics**

**Skill Sheets**

Unit Overviews give you a bird's eye view of everything at once!

Info At-a-Glance

Pacing guide & standards

Lesson Takeaway

Quick link to Google files

Digital versions are fully editable!

**VOTER TURNOUT** LESSON PLANS

Suggested Lesson

Bell Ringer (10-15 minutes)

- Have students get out their Candidate Research sheet(s) and Notes, reviewing the candidates' platforms, especially what the candidates say about voting and elections.
- Venn Diagram:** Based on simulating what it's like to research candidates in order to vote, ask students to decide how it might be the central candidate.
- Concept

**VOTER TURNOUT** LESSON PLANS

Planning & Preparation

Time: 1-2 class periods

Materials: Candidate Research & Link Notes sheet, How We Vote sheet, Voter Turnout (doubled-sided), How We Vote podcast episode

NOTE: Since the next lesson also has the option to include a podcast episode, decide if you want to do these two back-to-back or pick just one to include the podcast and present the same information via lecture or some other way with the other.

**VOTER TURNOUT** LESSON PLANS

Skills Addressed

Explain and evaluate the process of voting

Analyze trends of voter turnout

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of sources

Determine the central ideas of a source

Make meaning of statistical and graphical data

**HOW WE VOTE**

As you listen to the Civics 101 episode, *How We Vote* (January 30, 2018), take notes using this graphic organizer. Be thinking about how voting procedures have shifted over time and how that has affected how Americans think about voting.

**HOW WE VOTE**

Vice vice voting

Ballot voting

Paper voting

Party newspaper

Colored paper

Election Day card

Australian ballot

Donkey and elephant

Framers' intention

Today

I didn't realize

**VOTER TURNOUT**

HOW DO AMERICANS REGARD VOTING?

It seems that in every election in America the one who makes the most noise are the turnout rates. For being a country founded on the ideal, an ideal for which countless of American soldiers have fought and died that we are a representative system, we don't really vote that much. While it is certainly not as easy or as accessible as it could be, there is also clear data that many Americans simply choose not to vote.

**HOW MANY PERCENTAGE POINTS DOES TURNOUT RISE?**

Direct mail promises to tell neighbors if you vote

TV ads, targeted to young audience

Volunteers going door to door

Radio call tells you if you voted in past

Text message the day before election

Election day festival

Direct mail tells you if you voted in past

Volunteers telephoning

Radio ads

Leaflets

TV ads, among general audience

Facebook election day, tells which friends voted

Paid live telephoning

Direct mail, nonpartisan generic

Paid live telephoning

Text message on election day

Email

Direct mail, partisan

Advice from friends' endorsements



Helpful planning tips & Links to Google files

Wide range of ways to complete activities!

Daily Inquiry, Directions & Background context

Tons of Primary Sources

Graphs  
Podcasts  
Political Cartoons  
Election Materials

Lesson Plans come with step-by-step directions

closing formative assessments

# UNIT *overview*

# TAKE A PEEK *inside* **ACTIVITY** *each*



**PRIVILEGE**  
A gift, something that maybe earned, and/or something that may be taken away  
**DRIVER'S LICENSE, CURFEW**

Student-friendly definitions

**RIGHT**  
Something that everyone has automatically, can't (or very rarely) be taken away  
**12 Education, Speech/Religion/Press**




**RESPONSIBILITY**  
Something that you should do to take care of yourself and/or others; an obligation.  
**Feed the family dog, Help siblings with schoolwork**

Print PDF & editable Google file options for all student materials to tailor to your classroom needs

**CANDIDATE RESEARCH**  
WHO IS ASKING FOR MY VOTE? •

IS VOTING AN AMERICAN RESPONSIBILITY, RIGHT, OR PRIVILEGE? Name \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Always four stars. There's a lot of excitement when the office of the President, all U.S. Representatives, 1/3 of all U.S. Senators, and in most states, most of its own or almost all officials are up for the people to decide. However, every election every year is important. It bears its own weight, and your hopes for the future, national cohesion, future American citizens are asking for you to choose those to represent your values, ideal state, and your hopes for the future.

Before diving into the candidates running for open elected offices in this upcoming election, it's important you know what the job entails, what you are looking for in a candidate, and where to find the best information. Then, research candidates using a variety of sources to arrive at your informed decision of who is the best person for the job.

**WHERE CAN I GET WORTHWHILE INFORMATION?**

- Candidate debates and town halls (YouTube or news channel websites)
- Candidate's official campaign websites
- Trusted news outlets' opinion section—their endorsements and/or editorials
- County- or state-issued voters' pamphlet

**WHAT SHOULD I KNOW BEFORE DECIDING?**

- Own ideas about who should hold that position
- Duties of the job for which they are running
- Their previous job, community experiences, and education
- Ideas for what they want to do if elected to that position
- Recommendations by respected experts (ex. economists, scientists, professors, other leaders)
- Endorsements by trusted media organizations

The most valuable source to learn about the candidates was...  
The least valuable sources was...  
After examining all these candidates, I am most surprised by... because...  
I am least surprised by... because...  
The hardest part about making my decision between the candidates is... because...  
The easiest part is... because...

Step-by-step essay support

After reviewing everything how should voting be regarded?

**RESPONSIBILITY  
RIGHT  
PRIVILEGE**

When thinking about voting in America, is it

- 1 A serious **RESPONSIBILITY** every citizen must do?
- 2 An inalienable **RIGHT** that is available to every single citizen?
- 3 A **PRIVILEGE** that should be appreciated because not everyone gets such an honor?

Which description seems to **BEST** fit your views?

- History of Voting Rights
- Constitutional Amendments
- Political Party Platforms
- Candidates & Propositions
- Voter Turnout
- Voting Procedures

an **APPRECIATION** for your ability to vote.

have the **TOOLBOX** of knowledge to be a registered, informed, and engaged life-time voter.

UNIT TOPICS

UNIT TAKEAWAYS

How can you capture your overall position with these 3 claims in a single **THESIS SENTENCE?**

THESIS SENTENCE

Candidate Research

First, identify what the job entails and what you are looking for in a candidate.

Position: TYPE JOB TITLE HERE

Duties of the job include TYPE HERE

I want someone who has / believes TYPE HERE

Candidate #1: TYPE NAME HERE	Candidate #2: TYPE NAME HERE
TYPE FACT #1 HERE	TYPE FACT #1 HERE
TYPE FACT #2 HERE	TYPE FACT #2 HERE
TYPE FACT #3 HERE	TYPE FACT #3 HERE
TYPE FACT #4 HERE	TYPE FACT #4 HERE

Second, research and record key pieces of information that is persuading to vote for as well as against each candidate.

# *Instructional* SLIDE DECK