

**Subject:** Math  
**Level:** Middle School

## CIVIC ACTION MATH LESSON PLAN

This lesson plan offers teachers resource links from the **Library of Congress** and **inquiry-based teaching strategies**, using middle school math content and primary source analysis to engage students in developing the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to engage in positive civic action.

<b>Title: Making your Voice Matter</b>		
<b>ESSENTIAL QUESTION: Does one vote matter?</b>		
<p><b>Lesson Overview:</b> Students examine the validity of different elections and apply analysis to each situation. Students will apply problem solving and critical thinking to analyze which methods of calculating votes is most fair and how to inform others of the voting process.</p>	<p><b>Lesson Objectives</b> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the validity of a voting process.</li> <li>Analyze ways in which voting does not reflect equality.</li> <li>Compare and contrast methods of voicing voting preferences.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Inquiry Standards</b> CCSS. 6.RP.A.1 Understand the concept of a ratio and use ratio language to describe a ratio relationship between two quantities.</p>		
<b>Supporting Question 1 ENGAGING</b>	<b>Supporting Question 2 EVALUATING</b>	<b>Supporting Question 3 TAKING ACTION</b>
How does voting affect your life?	How can voting be unfair?	How can a community leverage voting?
<b>PERFORMANCE TASK 1</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE TASK 2</b>	<b>CULMINATING TASK</b>
Provide students with primary source articles about the United State presidential elections of 1876, 1888, and 2000. Ask students in groups to determine if the elections seemed fair. What were the possible points of contention in each election?	Provide students with resources on the variety of voting methods we have seen in this country. Have students create a mock election using each of the three voting processes.	Have students identify an issue within their community that is of vital importance and a candidate that supports solutions to the issue. Have students create a campaign to encourage their community to vote, using any resource from history.
<b>LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RESOURCES ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</b>		
Presidential Election of 1876: A Resource Guide:	United States Electoral College, votes by state - <a href="https://www.loc.gov/item/20086">https://www.loc.gov/item/20086</a>	

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<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/elections/election1876.html">http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/elections/election1876.html</a>          Presidential Election of 1888: A Resource Guide  <a href="http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/elections/election1888.html">http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/elections/election1888.html</a></p> <p>Election in the USA  <a href="https://www.loc.gov/today/place/sinthenews/archive/2008arch/20081106_presidenelection.html">https://www.loc.gov/today/place/sinthenews/archive/2008arch/20081106_presidenelection.html</a></p>	<p><a href="#">26928/</a>          Election Day Collection Coverage:  <a href="https://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2016/11/election-day-collection-coverage/">https://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2016/11/election-day-collection-coverage/</a></p> <p>The presidential elections of the United States (published 1877):  <a href="https://www.loc.gov/item/2012586608/">https://www.loc.gov/item/2012586608/</a></p>	
<b>TEACHING STRATEGIES</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct instruction</li> <li>• Web search of LOC using <a href="#">Primary Source Tool</a></li> <li>• Primary source analysis</li> <li>• <a href="#">Jigsaw</a> of Electoral College process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct instruction</li> <li>• Role-play</li> <li>• <a href="https://nearpod.com">https://nearpod.com</a> to create a poll for students to vote on Electoral College value</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structured academic controversy</li> <li>• Role-play on voter apathy campaign</li> <li>• <a href="https://padlet.com">https://padlet.com</a> exercise in combating voter apathy</li> </ul>

*This lesson is part of a larger initiative, Citizen U, which aims to integrate civic learning across the curriculum for students in grades 2-12. For more lessons like it, in Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies, or to learn more about related creative, community, and professional development opportunities, please visit our [Citizen U website](#)...*