VOTER APATHY EXPERIENCE
(A few minutes a day for a week)

OBJECTIVE
Students experience the effects of apathy.

MATERIALS
Ballots handout; Please Vote Today handout; material to construct a ballot box

GET READY
✓ Adapt the set of ballots on the following page for your classroom, if necessary.
✓ Copy and cut apart a set of ballots for each student.
✓ Copy the Please Vote Today sign and assign a student to color it and set it up on a table or desk.
✓ Assign a few students to construct a ballot box. Set it near the Please Vote Today sign.
✓ See “Causes of Apathy” in the Appendix.

INSTRUCTIONS
✓ On Monday, without discussion, say to the students: We will vote on an issue a day for the next five days. Each morning I will place the ballots by the ballot box. Please come by the desk once a day to vote by marking a ballot and placing your ballots in the box. At the end of the week we will tally and implement the votes.
✓ Do not encourage or remind students to vote during the week.
✓ At the end of the week, assign a few students to tally and record the results on the board.
✓ The following week, implement the results.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
★ What was the point of this activity?
★ Do any of you who didn’t vote wish you had?
★ Might the outcome have been different if everyone had voted?
★ Did more students vote on some days than others? Why?
★ What does the word “apathy” mean? (Unconcern or indifference)
★ Were any of us apathetic to voting? Why or why not?
★ Do you think more students would vote if we voted like this again? Why?
★ Are voters in the U.S. apathetic? Why?
★ Why should citizens vote? What could happen if they don’t vote?
★ Is there anything we can do to encourage adults to vote? What can we do?

MORE!
Help your students learn to be responsible to vote by allowing them to make as many classroom decisions as possible by voting.
# ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Grades 3-5

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## BALLOTS

### VOTE FOR ONE

**Length of Recess**

- Increase recess by 10 minutes, but add 10 minutes of homework
- Decrease recess by 10 minutes, but take away 10 minutes of homework
- Keep recess and homework the same as it has been

### VOTE FOR ONE

**Amount of Homework**

- Once a week for 1 hour
- Every night for 15 minutes each night
- 3 times a week for 20 minutes each night

### VOTE FOR ONE

**Work Pattern**

- Work alone all day
- Work with a friend all day
- Work in teams all day

### VOTE FOR ONE

**Order of Day**

- Math, Science, Reading, Spelling, Social Studies
- Science, Spelling, Reading, Social Studies, Math
- Remain as is

### VOTE FOR ONE

**Lunch**

- Lunch in room next Monday
- Lunch outside next Monday
- Lunch in cafeteria next Monday

### VOTE FOR ONE

**Issue:**

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PLEASE VOTE TODAY

Please Vote Today

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