

Teacher's Notes for Going for the Silver Medal: Choosing a Vice-President



Going for the Silver Medal: Choosing a Vice-President is a social studies unit targeting grades 6-8. Students will create a digital/video campaign advertisement to promote their choice for vice-president during a presidential election. This comprehensive study incorporates history, civics, research, analysis, technology, reading, writing, and collaboration. Students will study the form and history of American government, peruse primary historical documents, ponder document based questions, and analyze a myriad of print and digital informational sources. They will then apply their knowledge and

analysis to making informed civic choices and creating persuasive arguments using fact and logic. Students will survey their classmates to determine the power of their persuasion and interpret the findings using graphs. Finally, they have the opportunity to post their advertisements to *YouTube*, convert it into an online petition, or communicate their position to global youth via other online means.

This unit addresses the following national standards:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CIVICS</u></p> <p>NSS-C.5-8.1 Civic Life, Politics, and Government NSS-C.5-8.2 Foundations of the Political System NSS-C.5-8.3 Principles of Democracy NSS-C.5-8.5 Roles of the Citizen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MATH</u></p> <p>NM-DATA.6-8.1: Formulate questions that can be addressed with data and collect, organize, and display relevant data to answer NM-DATA.6-8.3: Develop and evaluate inferences and predictions that are based on data</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LANGUAGE ARTS</u></p> <p>NL-ENG.K-12.1 Reading for Perspective NL-ENG.K-12.3 Evaluation Strategies NL-ENG.K-12.4 Communication Skills NL-ENG.K-12.5 Communication Strategies NL-ENG.K-12.6 Applying Knowledge NL-ENG.K-12.7 Evaluating Data NL-ENG.K-12.8 Developing Research Skills NL-ENG.K-12.12 Applying Language Skills</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TECHNOLOGY</u></p> <p>NT.K-12.1 Basic Operations and Concepts NT.K-12.2 Social, Ethical, and Human Issues NT.K-12.3 Technology Productivity Tools NT.K-12.4 Technology Communication Tools NT.K-12.5 Technology Tools NT.K-12.6 Technology Problem-Solving and Decision-Making</p>

In addition, “Going for the Silver Medal: Choosing a Vice-President” incorporates IDE’s [Ten Principles of the Learner Active Technology Infused Classroom \(LATIC\)](#). As students look to synthesize information into a complex product, they will have a felt-need to take responsibility for their learning, scheduling time and learning opportunities to accomplish the task. The high-level, open-ended problem which is presented to the students will hold them to a high academic standard through the [rubric](#). This rubric guides the students as they work collaboratively toward a goal, and at the same time, provides the opportunity for the individual to pursue his or her own learning path. Students use technology as a resource and also as a means to convey information. Finally, researching political factors and issues as well as using their presentation as a form of civic outreach issues allow students to understand their role as global citizens.