

A stylized, painterly representation of the American flag, featuring a blue field with white stars and red and white stripes. The style is reminiscent of a woodcut or a high-contrast digital illustration.

Read, Learn, Vote

“Let students voice their choice”

A Proposed 2008 Student Mock Election Event

A product of
Pennsylvania Newspaper Association's
Newspaper in Education Committee
Approved by
Pennsylvania Society of Newspaper Editors



“LET STUDENTS VOICE THEIR CHOICE”
from
PNA NIE Committee

Every four years, elementary and high school teachers scramble to gather materials that will enhance their curriculum regarding Election Day.

From explaining what the election process is to identifying the role of newspapers in this process, teachers, in their own way, expose students to this precious right - freedom to choose a president. It can be an overwhelming task paired with day-to-day learning expectations.

“Let Students Voice their Choice” is an excellent opportunity for newspapers to fill this void, helping teachers educating students about democracy through a practical application of the election process.

By providing teachers and students with in-paper or online activities involving election news, newspapers will perform an invaluable service.

At the same time, this project fosters the idea that reading the newspaper (and its products) is an excellent source of information not only about the election but also about everyday life situations as well. Thus, the importance of the newspaper in a young person’s life can evolve and perpetuate.

Dr. Ann Marie Steele, Manager
Newspaper in Education & Community Services
Lancaster Newspapers, Inc.
PNA NIE Committee Member
PNA Youth & New Readership Committee



February 2008

“Reach out to our youngest readers as their interest grows in this election. The Pennsylvania Society of Newspaper Editors sees great value in this initiative, and we hope newspapers make the effort to connect with students in this great way.”

**Bob Heisse, President
Pennsylvania Society of Newspaper Editors**



GOAL

‘2008 Student Mock Election Event’

Pennsylvania Newspaper Association (PNA), its Newspaper in Education (NIE) Committee, and PNA Youth & New Readership (YNRC) Committee seek to partner with the Pennsylvania Society of Newspaper Editors (PSNE) to promote the election and voting process in school districts across the Commonwealth through the use of print and online newspaper products.

This project offers PSNE newsrooms an opportunity to connect with young readers and show them the value and relevance of newspapers to an issue that they care about passionately.

What the project will do for your newspaper:

1. Incorporate state academic standards for civics & government in all components of this endeavor
2. Recruit ‘participating’ schools in your circulation area through an interest survey
3. Select and provide supplemental materials to participating schools to support the voting and election process
4. Connect newspapers and their participating schools online so that students have the opportunity to ‘voice their choice’ through a voting process
5. Encourage student participation in the election and voting process through in-paper contests and activities
6. Provide a calendar of election events to participating schools to increase readership and circulation
7. Provide editorial staff with student contributions and the final analysis and results of the students’ choices



OUTLINE OF ELECTION PROCESS

- I. SCHOOL/TEACHER INTEREST SURVEY
- II. INDIVIDUAL NEWSPAPERS REGISTER ONLINE
- III. SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY
 - A. Selects one person to become the contact person between school and newspaper.
 - 1. Liaison to the Newspaper
 - a. Student Government Advisor, Civics & Government Classroom Teacher, Other
 - Contact Person Registers Info Online
 - (1) Personal contact information
 - (2) Inputs the number of students, who register to vote
 - (3) Distributes, collects, scans paper ballots
 - (4) Reports final tallies online
 - (5) Orders newspapers or e-Editions to cover the elections in the classroom
 - B. Determines Election Process Methodology
 - 1. Designates who will run the Election Process
 - a. Student Government
 - b. Civics & Government Class
 - c. Other
 - C. Distributes Applications & Registers Students to Vote
 - D. Distributes Ballots – Primary, Presidential Elections
 - E. Collects & Scans Voter Ballots
 - F. Reports Results Online
- IV. NEWSPAPER RESPONSIBILITY
 - A. Provides Newspapers, e-Editions, other Election Materials to Schools
 - B. Conducts a Teacher Workshop
 - C. NIE Coordinator
 - 1. Works with and Sets Deadlines with School Liaison
 - 2. Reports to the Online Service Any Issues & Concerns
 - 3. Provides Registration Forms & Ballots



SCHOOL/TEACHER INTEREST SURVEY
(Can be linked to NIE web sites, emailed, other)

<NEWSPAPER> would like to involve your school and students in the
2008 ELECTION & VOTING PROCESS.

Newspapers across the state are currently soliciting information from local school districts to determine the interest of a state-wide program, which is based upon Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Civics and Government.

As a newspaper, we want to join the educational community in encouraging students to read and learn more about our valued democratic process.

<Include information regarding how you want teachers to respond (e.g., return email) and deadline for response.>

Please check appropriate response.

Is your school district interested in receiving supplemental materials and participating in a mock election hosted by the newspaper?

Yes No

1. What grade levels do you think will be most interested in participating?

Secondary Middle Elementary

2. Which of the following components do you think will best complement your curriculum regarding the election and voting process?

- Election Events Calendar for ordering newspapers in advance
- Mock Election for students (results published statewide)
- Special newspaper section or tabloid for students
- Student in-paper editorials and contests
- Teacher guides for special sections and tabloids
- Teacher workshop-Newspaper & the Election Process

3. For your school to access online materials, we need to know what browser is in use: Explorer 6 + Firefox 1.5 + Safari 2 +

Other _____

4. Please identify a contact person for your school (preferably, a student government advisor or civics classroom teacher, who has close ties with the election process.)

_____ Email _____



STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

Directions: Using the scantron form provided, please complete the following information using a #2 pencil.

“I hereby affirm that the information I have provided in this registration declaration is true. I understand that this registration declaration will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit; and if the registration contains a materially false statement, I will be subject to penalties for perjury.” (Pennsylvania Voter Registration Application)

1. Grade: Using lines 1-12, designate which grade you are currently enrolled in by filling in ‘circle A’ next to the number that indicates your grade level.
2. Register: Using lines 13-18 register your Party Affiliation by filling in ‘circle A’ next to the number that indicates your party.

13. Democratic
14. Republican
15. Libertarian
16. Green
17. Other
18. No Affiliation



STUDENT PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT

Directions: Using the scantron form provided, please complete the following information using a #2 pencil.

VOTE FOR ONE CANDIDATE:

1. For Republican John McCain: Fill in 1A
2. For Democrat Hillary Clinton: Fill in 2A
3. For Democrat Barack Obama: Fill in 3A



STUDENT REGISTRATION & ELECTION BALLOT

SIDE 1

RESCORE
 MARK ✓
 TOTAL ONLY/BOTH SIDES

1 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

2 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

3 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

4 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

5 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

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KEY ITEM COUNT

0	0	0
1	1	1
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7	7	7
8	8	8
9	9	9

↑
FIELD THIS DIRECTION
↓

STUDENT ID (UPON REQUEST)

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3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
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9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

Use a No. 2 Pencil

(A) ● (C) (D) (E)

Fill circle completely

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Erase cleanly

SCORE	# CORRECT
	% CORRECT
RESCORE	# CORRECT
	% CORRECT
ROSTER	SCORE

NAME	_____
SUBJECT	_____
PERIOD	_____
DATE	_____

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SCANTRON ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

■ SIDE 1

ITEM ANALYSIS - QUESTIONS 1-50

# INCORRECT	QUESTION #
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	50

TEST NAME _____

SUBJECT _____

PERIOD _____ DATE _____

STUDENTS

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PENNSYLVANIA STATE PRIMARY ELECTIONS

A primary election is the first step in the general election process. It is “an election in which voters in a jurisdiction select candidates for a subsequent election (nominating party)” (wikipedia.com, 1). The primary election is when nominees are selected for the general election. Voting practices of primary elections are similar to the general elections in that in “a primary election, registered voters may participate in choosing the candidate for the party’s nomination through secret ballot as in the general election” (DeclareYourself.com, 3).

There are three types of voting systems the United States: closed, open, and semi-open. In Pennsylvania, primary elections are closed. This means that “voters may vote in a party’s primary only if they are registered members of that party. Independents may not participate (wikipedia.com, 1). Independents are often referred to as “non-partisan.” Pennsylvania is one out of 25 states who implement a “closed” election system. Systems that are closed often have candidates who lean towards the extreme ends of the ideological spectrum (wikipedia.com, 5). This is because voters are only allowed to vote for members of their registered party. In closed elections, candidates lean towards the extremes of the spectrum in hopes of building a strong partisan following. In general elections, “the candidate must move more towards the center in hopes of capturing a plurality,” when it comes to which side of the ideological spectrum (wikipedia.com, 5). This is due to the fact that in general elections voters may choose to vote for either party regardless of which party they are registered.

In Pennsylvania, candidates must first circulate and file nomination petitions and then nomination papers to be considered for the general primary election on April 22, 2008 (Department of State: Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation, 1). Voters must register at least 30 days prior to elections or primaries. In Pennsylvania, voters must be, a US citizen for one month, 18 years old as of Election Day, a citizen of Pennsylvania for at least one month, and must not have been confined in a penal institution for a felony conviction within five years of the election (Department of State: Qualifications to Apply to Register to Vote, 1). For primary elections, “Individuals must be registered and enrolled in a political party to vote in that party’s primary” (Department of State: Qualifications to Apply to Register to Vote, 1).



Works Cited

Declareyourself.com. "Voting FAQ". 2007. Declare Yourself. 30 November 2007. http://www.declareyourself.com/voting_faq/voting_faq.html

Pennsylvania Department of State: Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation. 2007. Pennsylvania Department of State. 30 November 2007. http://www.dos.state.pa.us/elections/lib/elections/030_important_dates/importantdatesupcoming.pdf

Pennsylvania Department of State: Qualifications to Apply to Register to Vote. 21 July 2005. Pennsylvania Department of State. 30 November 2007. <http://www.doa.state.pa.us/voting/cwp/view.asp?=1192&q=443054>

Wikipedia. "Primary Election". 29 November 2007. Wikipedia Foundation, Inc. 30 November 2007. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_election



Pennsylvania Academic Standards & Assessments

5.3 How Government Works

F.	5.3.3	5.3.6	5.3.9	5.3.12
	Explain what an election is.	Describe the voting process. •Pennsylvania •United States	Explain the election process: •Voter Registration •Primary Elections •Caucuses •Political Party Conventions •General Elections •Electoral College	Evaluate the elements of the election process.
J.	Identify the role of the media in society.	Describe the influence of media in reporting issues.	Analyze the importance of the press.	Evaluate the role of the media in political life in the United States and explain the role of the media in setting the public agenda.