

Mock Election

The Campaign: Polling and Debate

Poll 1:

Before the debate, the class will utilize www.polleverywhere.com to grab a snapshot of the race at that moment. The class will have three minutes to respond to the poll using their phones. When the time is up, display the poll results. Explain that these numbers are closely watched by both campaigns, and used to constantly adjust campaign tactics and messages.

Debate Format:

OPENING STATEMENTS

- Both candidates for class leader will have up to three minutes to give their **opening statement** explaining *why voters should choose them and not their opponent*. Whoever wins a coin toss will have the choice whether to go first or second.

FIRST QUESTION

- The moderator will present the **first question** to the candidate that opened the debate – **Candidate A**. That candidate will have up to two minutes to answer the question.
- When finished, or cut off by the moderator, **Candidate B** will have the opportunity to **cross-examine Candidate A** for up to one minute.
- Next, the moderator will give **Candidate B** the chance to answer the **first question** within two minutes, then allow **Candidate A** to **cross-examine** for up to one minute.

SECOND QUESTION

- The moderator will present the **second question** to **Candidate B**. That candidate will have up to two minutes to answer the question.
- When finished, or cut off by the moderator, **Candidate A** will have the opportunity to **cross-examine Candidate B** for up to one minute.
- Next, the moderator will give **Candidate A** the chance to answer the **second question** within two minutes, then allow **Candidate B** to **cross-examine** for up to one minute.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

- Now, the candidates will have the opportunity to take **audience questions**. The moderator will call for an audience question for **Candidate A**, with **Candidate B** having the opportunity to respond. Candidates will have a maximum of two minutes to answer the question, and one minute to respond.
- The moderator will then call for an audience question for **Candidate B**, with **Candidate A** having the opportunity to respond.

CLOSING STATEMENTS

- **Candidate A** will have up to three minutes to give a **closing statement** in which they may **rebut** their opponent, but especially to *reiterate why they should be elected to office*.
- **Candidate B** will then be given the same opportunity.

Poll 2:

After the debate, the class will again utilize www.polleverywhere.com to grab another updated snapshot of the class opinion and state of the race. Students will again have three minutes to enter their opinions using their phones. When time is up, display the new results and compare them to the results from Poll 1. Has anything changed? Did the leader gain supporters? Did the race tighten? Is there now a new leader?