

Happy Birthday – Now VOTE!

Coming of age to vote is a monumental occasion. Encouraging voter registration is a way we can *all* participate in our democracy to make certain our voices are heard.

At every age we can influence others. We can persuade, nudge, cajole, coax, remind, and inspire a person to register and vote.

Happy Birthday – Now VOTE! invites youth ages 5-18 to be a catalyst for new voters. Here's how: provide a handmade birthday card for a 16-18-year-old with a personal message about the importance of voting and why voting matters to **you**. Include a Voter Registration Card and/or a link on how to register (or pre-register) to vote online.

Ever since 18-year-olds were given the right to vote in 1972, youth have been underrepresented at the polls. Check out RocktheVote.org as a resource to promote voter registration and VOTING!

Partner with a high school. Make an agreement with the high school administration that every birthday card with voter registration information you provide will be given to a student when they reach the age to **pre-register** or **register** to vote. THEN:

1. Make a "Happy Birthday" card.
2. Add a message about why voting is important to you.
3. Include a Voter Registration Card and/or information about online registration.
4. Provide the birthday cards to your partner high school.
5. Register how many *Happy Birthday-Now VOTE!* cards are distributed with the hashtag #HBDNowVote.

Supplies needed:

- Art paper and markers to make birthday cards. Go all out! Make them creative, cool, memorable, and important.
- Local voter registration information 
- Envelopes.

What we can do at every age:

- ✓ Learn about why voting matters – resources on next page.
- ✓ Compare candidate views on your priority issues.
- ✓ Assist family, friends and neighbors register to vote, **confirm registrations are up-to-date**, information on absentee and early voting rules, and locate polling centers; all can be done online. check
- ✓ Check if anyone needs transportation assistance to the polls and help identify solutions.

In some states, online pre-registration and registration is available for eligible 16-18-year-olds. Pre-registered youth will automatically become registered on their 18th birthday.

Most local government buildings, like local libraries, provide voter registration cards that can be mailed.

Laws are changing regarding deadlines to register to vote. For example, Same Day Voter Registration is a safety net for Californians who miss the deadline to register to vote or update their voter registration information for an election. Be Informed!

General Election: Some voting centers will be open for multiple days prior to November 3, 2020. Check what is happening in your county and do your part to inform others.

Encourage every person you know of voting age to VOTE!

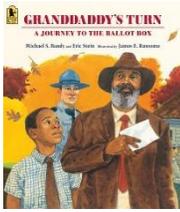


Happy Birthday – Now VOTE! is an initiative of CBK Associates and Educators Consortium for Service Learning, a Los Angeles-based organization. Let us know you are joining this national drive to engage every new voter in our democracy. Use **#HBDNowVote** on Twitter and Instagram. Post photos! Spread the word. Inspire others. Remember:



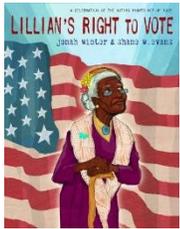
Every Vote Counts!

BOOKS Learn more about our history, democracy and voting through these titles



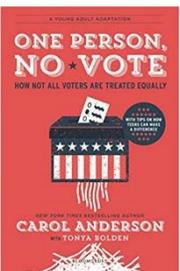
Granddaddy's Turn – a Journey to the Ballot Box by Michael Bandy and Eric Stein illustrated by James E. Ransome

Based on the true story of one family's struggle for voting rights in the civil rights–era South, this tale shines an emotional spotlight on the challenges in the past so we can link with challenges that remain today. When Michael walks to town with his grandfather to cast his first vote, he struggles with patience when it seems justice cannot come fast enough. Picture book



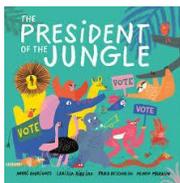
Lillian's Right to Vote – A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Shane W. Evans

This visual history of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 traces an elderly African American woman en route to vote. While making the “long haul up a steep hill” to her polling place, she sees her family’s history. She sees the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment and her great-grandfather voting for the first time. She sees her parents trying to register to vote. And she sees herself marching in a protest from Selma to Montgomery. A must-read to learn about civil rights and never to take voting for granted. Picture book



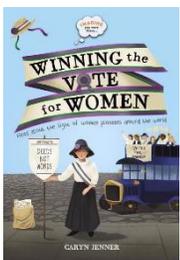
One Person, No Vote: How Not All Voters are Treated Equally by Carol Anderson with Tonya Bolden

In this young adult version of the author’s bestselling book, readers are given an extensive review of the rollbacks to African American participation in the vote since the 2013 Supreme Court decision that eviscerated the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In detail she explains how voter suppression works, from photo ID requirements to gerrymandering to poll closures. She explores the resistance: the organizing, activism, and court battles to restore the basic right to vote to all Americans as the nation gears up for the 2020 presidential election season. Includes ideas for getting involved in your community. Gr 7-12



The President of the Jungle by André Rodrigues, Larissa Ribeiro, Paula Desgualdo, Pedro Markun

The animals are frustrated by the lion abusing his role as “King of the Jungle.” Owl says, “Let’s be a democracy! Let’s hold an election!” With clear rules including *candidates cannot eat their opponents*, the election process goes in full force. Who among the four candidates be disqualified and who will be elected? Ideal to introduce concepts and compare jungle election rules with our own. All ages!



Winning the Vote for Women by Caryn Jenner

Winning the Vote for Women reveals the stories behind the strong-willed people from around the world who fought for the right to vote. Through photography, illustrations and narrative, meet the women, and the men, from every continent who fought both for and against the

suffrage movement, and those that are continuing the fight today. From New Zealand in 1894 to Saudi Arabia in 2014, discover the global petitions, campaigns, peaceful protests and marches, as well as extreme measures taken by suffragists and suffragettes in their determination to change history.

For more book resources, visit cbkassociates.com and discoverecsl.org.

Classroom Resources: Expanding Voting Rights

Tolerance.org provides classroom resources that covers the complicated history of U.S. voting rights. For grades 6-8, 9-12. <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/expanding-voting-rights>.

ServiceVote – 20 ideas for 2020 resources from Youth Service America to engage youth can be found at ysa.org/vote

The **League of Women Voters** is a reliable source for civic participation. Visit lww.org.

For more information, email ECSLabc@gmail.com and cathy@cbkassociates.com

Happy Birthday – Now VOTE!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

So You Think You Can Vote? Video [5:23] WeTheVoters.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbb3BWnWB60&feature=youtu.be>

A brief introduction to the reality that our constitution does *not* guarantee the right to vote, and historical moments that illustrate the challenges from the past and challenges in the present.

- ❖ A spark to provoke conversation – What is most memorable?
- ❖ What questions were raised? Individually or in pairs, students write questions on sticky notes and organize in a question wall. Divide questions into MISO to determine the best ways to get them answered – **M**edia, **I**nterview, **S**urvey, **O**bservation – and then follow-up to find out more.

We the Voters: How does social media change the election? Video [5:34] WeTheVoters.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftjfUfE4Xc>

How do we access news? How do we fall prey to the algorithms that make decisions for us? Are we all skewed to only hear what we agree with? What's the *full story*? How do we feed the system that we need to think about critically? In the digital age we have power and responsibility.

- ❖ Create a survey to find out how peers and others get their news, and how much time is spent with online resources. How much time is spent verifying stories and going behind the headlines?
- ❖ Divide the class into four groups and designate a timeframe to spend observing content on a selected media outlet. Determine what you are looking for, leaving one category to be “unexpected findings.” Start the clock, observe, record, then discuss.

Voting Rights in America: Two Centuries of Struggle by Bruce Hartford

<https://www.crmvet.org/info/votehist.htm>

As stated on the website, “This brief time-line describes an American history of oppression, persecution, and discrimination in regards to voting rights . . . [in] the events described here, those affected were not submissive or passive victims, — rather they fought for their rights with whatever means they had.” Use as fact cards for interactive conversations.

Facing History and Ourselves

<https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library?search=Voting>

Facing History and Ourselves offers a wealth of reliable resources and “lessons from history to challenge teachers and students to stand up to bigotry and hate.” They have an extensive library of information that supports an informed discussion and examination of how voting rights of many populations have been marginalized and the continued struggle for equity and justice.

Teaching Tolerance

<https://www.tolerance.org/projects/voting-and-voices>

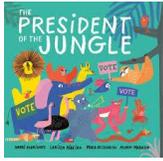
<https://www.tolerance.org/future-voters-project>

Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, offers resources for all grade levels to explore the history and process of voting in the United States. As their mission, Teaching Tolerance helps teachers and schools educate children and youth to be active participants in a diverse democracy.

Read on for more ideas and resources!

BOOK SPARKS

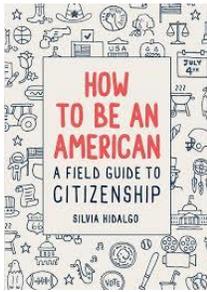
The President of the Jungle by André Rodrigues, Larissa Ribeiro, Paula Desgualdo, Pedro Markun



The animals are frustrated by the lion abusing his role as “King of the Jungle.” Owl says, “Let’s be a democracy! Let’s hold an election!” With clear rules including *candidates cannot eat their opponents*, the election process goes in full force. Who among the four candidates be disqualified and who will be elected? Ideal to compare jungle election rules with our own. All ages!

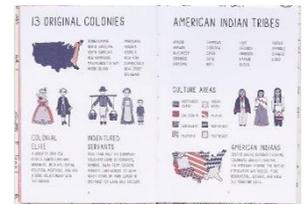
- ❖ Make a list of all the characters in the story, plus a narrator. Make name tags for each.
- ❖ Invite volunteers to step up and portray the characters in a spontaneous Readers’ Theatre event.
- ❖ Have participants in small groups, each with a sheet of easel paper and markers. Make a T-chart on their paper with **IDEAL** and **REAL** as the headers for the top of the T.
- ❖ Each table discusses and lists the ideal aspects of the jungle election and then identify the *real* factors that are present in our current US election system. For example, “Each animal gets one vote” is *ideal*; the *reality* is factors like gerrymandering prevent this from being true.
- ❖ Debrief with conversations and actions like:
 - What stands out as significant issues in today’s election process?
 - Who is working to keep the status quo? Who is working to make change? How can youth participate?
 - Use maps to identify places in the US engaged in legal challenges to alter the system.

BOOKS Learn more about our history, democracy and voting through these additional titles



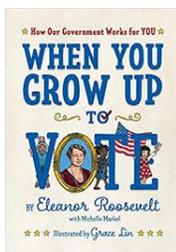
How To Be An American: A Field Guide to Citizenship by Silvia Hidalgo

Born in Costa Rica, Sylvia Hidalgo cast her first vote as a U.S. citizen on March 20, 2018. This book is for future and current citizens to learn about the country, its beginnings, its history with a spotlight on “the American political system and how to be an active and involves citizen.” The clever and engaging drawings and text make this a useful way to attract all learners. See information missing? Create a page in the style of the book! Keep adding!



Votes for Women! American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot by Winifred Conkling

Fourteen chapters to take you through the journey and struggles of women getting the vote plus key primary sources, for example, the “Ain’t I A Woman?” speech delivered by Sojourner Truth in 1851, and a four-page timelines. Use the entire book or excerpts.



When You Grow Up to Vote – How Our Government Works for You by Eleanor Roosevelt with Michelle Markel, illustrated by Grace Lin

Before you can vote, it’s imperative to understand how our government works and who make sup the government. While written for elementary children, youth of every age *and adults* will benefit from this vivid directory of government from the sanitation workers to the fifteen members of the president’s cabinet. Includes *How a Law is Made*, highlights from the History of Voting Rights, and information on gerrymandering and the Electoral College.

Do you have more resources and ideas of how to use them?

Email cathy@cbkassociates.com and ECSLabc@gmail.com, and post photos and more #HBDNowVote