

# Growing Voters and Election 2016

## Activity Title: **Election Trading Cards: Candidates, Parties, Issues, and Supporters**

Grades: elementary grades \*

### Overview

Students create a Presidential Candidate trading card that they can trade or keep to teach others about the candidate's history, political party, issues, supporters, and any other pertinent details.

### Essential Questions

- Who runs for president? What is the background of candidates?
- What is the difference between the Republican Party and the Democratic Party?
- What issues are most important in this current election? Or in a past election?
- Who supports each candidate in this election?

### Objectives

- Students will think about the qualities of the person running to be US president
- Students will understand the criteria for political leadership.
- Students will be able to explain the key issues in the current election and align these to each of the major candidates.

### Activities

1. Teachers can either assign (and apportion) students on what type of card they are going to create or let the students choose on their own. The choices are among **5 types**:


- a. Candidate card
  - b. Political Party card
  - c. Campaign Issue card
  - d. Supporters Card
  - e. Election Process Card
2. Students need to look for the material they want to add to their election card. Use the websites on the GrowingVoters.org pages or the teacher can assign others. Depending on what type of card the students are making their research will vary. Consider having a class discussion on the material the students are finding and how it could go into an election card.
  3. Students should design an illustration or photo. This can be their own creative work or they can use something they identify on the internet. They can use the template suggested here or make a new one.
  4. Students can create their cards in any of a range of formats: Microsoft Word doc, PowerPoint slide, paper and markers, digital media, etc.

### **Trade Election Cards**

- Consider coordinating this activity with another classroom so that students can exchange/trade cards. If nothing else, the students will read more election information.
- Put photos of cards online to share. Consider Pinterest or Flickr or [Padlet](#).
- Put photos of cards online and then use audio to have each student speak about their own card. PowerPoint audio, Voicethread.com, or add audio to the Padlet.com
- Where appropriate consider using social media to share student cards.

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## Trading Card Example Template

Candidate's Name	Political Party:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Insert a Picture of the Candidate Here</li></ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bio:</li><li>• Issues:</li></ul>

\*may be scaled upwards in grade level depending on added sophistication and expectations.

### Suggestions to extend activity:

1. Use **past** elections. (or even use past elections as another card category in current election).
2. Make it a **future** election, think through the role of government in the future, the issues, and create attributes for future candidates.

## Campaign Trading Card Rubric

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Details/Facts	The campaign card includes 5 or more facts about the candidate.	The campaign card includes 3-4 facts about the candidate.	The campaign card includes 2 facts about the candidate.	There are no relevant facts about the candidate.
Knowledge Gained	Student can accurately answer all questions related to facts on the trading card.	Student can accurately answer most questions related to facts on the trading card.	Student can accurately answer about 75% of questions related to facts on the trading card.	Student appears to have insufficient knowledge about the facts or processes used on the trading card.
Grammar	There are no grammatical mistakes on the trading card.	There is 1 grammatical mistake on the trading card.	There are 2 grammatical mistakes on the trading card.	There are more than 2 grammatical mistakes on the trading card.
Mechanics	Capitalization and punctuation are correct throughout the trading card.	There is 1 error in capitalization or punctuation.	There are 2 errors in capitalization or punctuation.	There are more than 2 errors in capitalization or punctuation.

Credit note: Thank you to Dayna Rodriguez for initial work on this activity.