

Teacher Guide: **VOTING**

In order of appearance in **Preparing for the Oath**, the Civics Test items covered in this theme are:

54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
- eighteen (18) and older
48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
- Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).
 - You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.
 - Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)
 - A male citizen of any race (can vote).
77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?
- fought for women's rights
 - fought for civil rights
45. What are the two major political parties in the United States?
- Democratic and Republican
26. We elect a President for how many years?
- four (4)
27. In what month do we vote for President?
- November
46. What is the political party of the President now?
- Republican (Party)

Overview

This Teacher Guide will take you through the Civics Test questions covered in the theme, **Voting**. The instructional steps provided here target ESL students at the high beginning level. Watch the video on the Help screen and take some time to familiarize yourself with the elements and navigation of **Preparing for the Oath** so that you are comfortable presenting it to your class.

Introduction

To start the lesson, open the theme and present the Introduction Screen. Read the introductory paragraphs aloud and discuss them with the students.

Voting is one of the best ways to participate in the government. Throughout our history, many groups, like women and African Americans, fought for the **right** to vote in **federal elections**. Today, every **citizen** 18 years old and older can vote. **Elections** decide who will be elected to public office and make decisions for all of us.

Government leaders wrote the Constitution in 1787. At that time, the Constitution did not explain who could vote for president. Instead, state governments decided who voted in each state. Today, there are **amendments** to the Constitution about voting. The **amendments** decide who votes in all the states.

Explore the Questions

These steps will help you guide your class through the theme, using an LCD projector:

1. Distribute the handout **Key Vocabulary—Voting** and review the definitions with the students.
2. Click on the Start button to begin the first video, **Voting Age**.
3. Play the video for the class with the captions on or off.
4. Pause the video where appropriate to discuss the vocabulary and images with the class.
5. Play the video again without pausing.
6. If there is a Practice activity available for this question, click on the “Practice” tab.
7. View and discuss the Practice activity.
8. Click on the “Try” tab.
9. Listen to the Civics Test item and have the students select the answer. Click on the “hear question” button to listen to the item repeatedly. After choosing the correct option, students can hear the answer aloud while they read along at the bottom of the screen.
10. Go through the rest of the videos in this theme, using the steps above.
11. Once the class has gone through all of the videos in this theme, wrap up this lesson with the handout, **True or False?—Voting**, or assign it to the students for homework.

Key Vocabulary—Voting

amendment: a change or addition to the U.S. Constitution

candidate: a person who works to be elected to a political position

citizen: a person who legally belongs to a country and has the rights and protection of that country

create: to make something new

demand: to strongly request or order

election: an event when people choose a member of government by voting

federal: part of the central U.S. government, not state or local governments

illegal: not allowed by the law

minimum: smallest level or amount possible

organize: to plan or arrange

poll taxes: money that some people had to pay to vote in an election

represent: to make decisions for another person or group of people

right: something you are morally or legally allowed to do

serve: to work for a certain period of time, usually in political office or in the military

speech: an expression of ideas and opinions that is made by someone who is speaking in front of a group of people

term: the period of time someone serves in a political office

True or False?—Voting

Read each sentence and decide if it is true or false.

If the sentence is false, rewrite the sentence using the correct words.

1. We elect a President for five years. True False

2. The Democratic and Republican parties are the two major political parties in the United States. True False

3. We vote for President in January. True False

4. One of the amendments about voting is that every citizen must vote in a federal election. True False

5. To vote for President, citizens must be at least 18 years old. True False

6. Susan B. Anthony fought for freedom of religion. True False



Visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/index.html?theme=14> to go directly to the **Voting** theme.