

12th Grade Civics Class - Project on Elections

Election Day is November 8th. It is an off-year election, meaning that there is no Presidential election, However, there are many other important races that affect our daily lives. One-Third of the Senate and the whole of the House of Representatives will be decided that night.

In this project you are to investigate three (3) different elections on three (3) different political levels.

1. National level – House or Senate race in Washington, D.C.
2. State level – Governor, in Albany, NY
3. Local level – such as who will be your local Senator or member of the House of Representatives in Albany, New York.

Here is how you can find your Personalized Ballot and Candidate Information:

Go to vote411.org

Open the ***Find What's On Your Ballot*** Box on the top right corner of the main page. Complete the ***Get Started*** box

This will now give you Vote411 Voter Guide and open the box ***Go To My Races***

You will now see all of the races in your area. It will show you any elections for your district, county, U.S. House District (Congressional), State Upper House District (Senate in Albany), and State Lower House District (Assembly in Albany).

You will also see that there are videos further down the page that are for any debates that have taken place for these election races.

If you click and open each race you will see photos of each candidate running for that particular office.

You can click a candidate icon to find more information about the candidate. To compare two candidates click the “compare” button. To start over, click a candidate icon.

Other useful websites you may want to view are:

USA.gov

elections.ny.gov

vote.nyc

League of Women Voters

Now that you have your personalized ballot, below are the instructions for the project.

1. Identify your three (3) top issues that affect you and your family during this election
2. Choose three (3) races on your ballot
 - a) A National Race for either Senate or House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.
 - b) The race for Governor in the State of New York
 - c) An election race for representatives in Albany, NY, either Senate or House of Representatives depending on your location.
3. Compare the candidates' side-by-side and read their views on important issues that are stated in their own words.

For each of the three races that you have chosen, answer the following questions:

- A. Identify the candidates, their names, political party, and qualifications.
- B. What are their three major issues for each race?
- C. How do these three major issues affect your personal life? Note it can be your community, your civic life or your private life. Give specific examples in your answers to validate these responses.
- D. Do you think that after reading the key campaign issues, the winner will follow up on their campaign promises or not? Explain giving reasons from what you read about the candidates.
- E. Is there a disparity between the candidates' political ideals and political reality with their campaigns? In your response identify specific areas and examples in your response that answer this question fully.
- F. If you could, would you perform "Civic Engagement" for any of these candidates – or would you use your First Amendment Right to protest against a specific candidate? Explain your choice and your reason and motive for such actions.

[Civic Engagement involves "working to make a difference in the civic life of one's community and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes." Civic engagement includes both paid and unpaid forms of political activism, environmentalism, and community and national service. Volunteering, national service, and service-learning are all forms of civic engagement]. Source: <https://youth.gov>

All projects must be typed and include your name so that I can grade.

Each section indicated above will be graded on accuracy and basic writing skills.

The due date for this project is: _____