



Mr. Krone's 8thGrade Skill Class, 2000 - 2001

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - Be Informed; Be Involved: An inquiry into both the Constitutional process contemporary drama of electing the President of the United States. Students will actively engage in Educational Activities characterized by insightful background information, extensive specialized research, and both virtual and simulated involvement in the Voting Process. Summative and convincing multi media-based Infomercials on each major candidate will be created by the students and shall form the basis of both effective Cross Teaching and Authentic Assessment.

Part 1. Thinking and Background Information:

1. IDENTIFY PROBLEMS to be Solved: A whole-class CrossTalk to identify problems to be solved.

“How does a person successfully campaign and be elected President of the United States?”

and

“How can a citizen become informed, educated, and involved in this election process?”

2. BACKGROUND: One week of Direct Instruction by the teacher. Worksheets, skill development, _notes from text, and vocabulary assignments by the student with quizzes, etc.(Students usually work by themselves.)

- **Vocabulary: people, places, things ---skim >> >in context>>> definitions that will “grow”**
- **Lectures:** ...Essential background information on the following topics:
 - **The Rules:** ...the Constitutionthe Electoral Collegethe Election Process
 - **The Party Platforms:**what a platform is.....what it is not.....the Republican Platformthe Democratic Platform
 - **The Human Element:** Meet the Candidates.... –track recordspersonal positionsstrengths
 - **The Unfolding Drama:** The main campaign issues and topics Week-to-week developments ..the Polls
 - **The Debates:** ...The power of debates in past presidential elections.....Possible Formats...what to Look for while watching debate on TV
- **Note-Taking Skills:**
 - How to take 2-Column Notes during a Lecture
 - How to take Chart notes
 - Notes from Internet Research
 - Summarizing notes with HyperStudio

3. CROSSTALK: At least one student-led whole-class discussion:. ----**The Presidential Election Process**

Part 2. Building Knowledge and Concepts:

1. THE STUDENTS BECOME EXPERTS: The students are problem solvers who research, work at Print Media Stations and Educational Technology Stations in order to get information and data which they think about, rebuild into a personal library of information and personal experiences.

Students are organized into one of the following expert groups:

BUSH THE CANDIDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Republican Platform• The personalities and strengths of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates• The message, the promises• The issues and the positions taken by Bush
THE BUSH CAMPAIGN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Hi-lights of the Bush campaign• The Buchanan factor: Reform Party's platform, Buchanan's message and promises, the "cost factor" ...how many votes will Bush loose to Buchanan?• The Polls and current standings• The Electoral Map and Bush• The Bush SPIN on the election....a persuasive analysis of the campaign and the candidate• What to look for on Election Night
GORE THE CANDIDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Democratic Platform• The personalities and strengths of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates• The message, the promises• The issues and the positions taken by Gore
THE GORE CAMPAIGN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Hi-lights of the Gore campaign• The Nader factor: Green Party's platform, Buchanan's message and promises, the "cost factor" ...how many votes will Bush loose to Nader?• The Polls and current standings• The Electoral Map and Bush• The Gore SPIN on the election....a persuasive analysis of the campaign and the candidate• What to look for on Election Night

2. THE STUDENTS REFLECT on the information they have found; they re-sequence the information and re-think it. Small group discussions, study groups, collaborative writing software (CSILE), and interactive quizzes provide opportunities to refine learning and build understanding. The students relate the details they find during their research to the concepts introduced (in Part 1) and thereby develop a deeper understanding of those concepts.

Presidential Election Unit—“*BUILDING KNOWLEDGE*” ROTATIONS

<p>VOCABULARY SKILLS (G)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn Election Vocabulary Study within your group • Check your mastery of the vocabulary with Vocabulary Builder when the “Vocab Computer” is available • Take Slider Quiz on all Vocab – • Get quiz graded 	<p>ELECTORAL COLLEGE GAME: (G)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compete as a group....win more Electoral votes than your competition.... Get elected • You need 35-40 minutes Think, be smart, make good group decisions 	<p>PRINT MEDIA 1 (S)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use special Note-Taking Chart to analyze selected information from magazine and newspaper articles (at least 5 total) • Get Note-Taking Chart evaluated • Add Note-Taking Chart to “Personal Library” and use “library” to help create your group’s HyperStudio Notes Summary and Infomercial.
<p>INTERNET RESEARCH (S)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the specially created Presidential Election Web Site as an interface to internet-based information about the Presidential Election • Take “Simple Text” notes • Print “Simple Text” notes (do not print directly from the web page) 	<p>WHITE HOUSE RESEARCH (HYPERSTUDIO-BASED) (G)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the HyperStudio stack about the White House . • With thought and confidence take the “Interactive” quizzes on your knowledge of the White House • Get your quiz graded 	<p>KIDS VOTING PROJECT (S)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in and learn from a special Voter Registration Lesson • Analyze in detail a simulated 2001 Ballot
<p>MINI SEMINAR- (S)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend special mini-seminar (see calendar for choice of dates) • Take part in discussion during the seminar • At conclusion of the seminar fill out special Seminar Report Form • Add Seminar Report Form to “Personal Library” and use “library” to help create your group’s HyperStudio Notes Summary and Infomercial. 	<p>SEMINAR TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rules: ...the Constitutionthe Electoral Collegethe Election Process • The Party Platforms:what a platform is....what it is not.....the Republican Platformthe Democratic Platform • The Human Element: Meet the Candidates.... –track recordspersonal positionsstrengths • The Unfolding Drama: The main campaign issues and topics Week-to-week developments ..the Polls • The Debates: ...The power of debates in past presidential elections.....Possible Formats...what to Look for while watching debate on TV 	<p>SUMMARY OF RESEARCH - Hyperstudio (G)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet as a Group and read-skim each others notes (Personal Libraries) • Look over the specially created HyperStudio stack intended to help you to consolidate and summarize your notes • Develop and follow a plan to enable your group to complete the stack and thereby create an informative, organized summary of your research

3.THE TEACHER MANAGES all these opportunities for students to explore and to build knowledge and concepts.

- See separate calendar for rotation management and deadlines.

ROTATIONS SCORECARD Name _____ Hour _____ Date _____

ELECTORAL COLLEGE GAME:

Be sure you have completed the Electoral College Game on-line. Report the Electoral College Score on the "Grade Received" blank.
Date Finished with Work at this Station _____ (G) Grade Received _____

VOCABULARY SKILLS + SLIDER QUIZ:

Be sure you have studied the Election Vocabulary booklet and Vocabulary Builder. Take the Slider Quiz.
Date Finished with Work at this Station _____ (G) Grade Received _____

PRINT MEDIA # 1:

Remember to find at least 5 different sources of information (articles that you read). You are building a personal library of information to help you understand the Election Process. Complete at least 5 Note Taking Charts.
Date Finished with Work at this Station _____ (S) Grade Received _____

INTERNET RESEARCH:

Remember to find at least 5 different sources of information (articles that you read). You are building a personal library of information to help you understand the Election Process. Complete at least 5 "Simple Text Notes." Date Finished with Work at this Station _____ (S) Grade Received _____

WHITE HOUSE RESEARCH AND QUIZ:

Hint: Make sure you take advantage of the brainpower of each member of your group as you study the White House and take the Interactive Quiz.
Date Finished with Work at this Station _____ (G) Grade Received _____

KIDS VOTING PROJECT:

Intelligent participation earns you an easy grade here.
Date Finished with Work at this Station _____ (S) Grade Received _____

MINI SEMINARS

Participate in each seminar. For each Seminar, Complete the Seminar Report Form.

Seminar # 1: The Rules Date you Plan to Attend _____ (S) Grade Received _____
Seminar # 2. The Party Platforms Date you Plan to Attend _____ (S) Grade Received _____
Seminar # 3. The Human Element Date you Plan to Attend _____ (S) Grade Received _____
Seminar # 4. The Unfolding Drama Date you Plan to Attend _____ (S) Grade Received _____
Seminar # 5. The Debates Date you Plan to Attend _____ (S) Grade Received _____
Date Finished with Work at this Station _____

Part 3. Communicating What Has Been Learned:

1. THE EXPERTS REPORT THEIR FINDINGS AND SOLUTIONS: The students engage in informative cross-teaching activities in which they share, usually with graphic boards, their knowledge of details and understanding of concepts.

No activities at this time.

2. THE WORKSHOP: STUDENTS PREPARE TO TEACH: The students create multi-media presentations in which they demonstrate the quality of their knowledge of details and understanding of concepts.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION UNT — “COMMUNICATING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED”

WORKSHOP AND TEST ROTATIONS

<p>SUMMARY OF RESEARCH - Hyperstudio (G)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet as a Group and read-skim each others notes (Personal Libraries) • Look over the specially created HyperStudio stack intended to help you to consolidate and summarize your notes • Develop and follow a plan to enable your group to complete the stack and thereby create an informative, organized summary of your research <p><u>(FINISH this if your group did not already finish it during Building Knowledge Rotations.)</u></p>	<p><u>INFOMERCIAL (HYPERSTUDIO-BASED)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish your HyperStudio-based Infomercial; remember this is a persuasive, high-impact <u>information -commercial</u> of all that your group has learned from the print media, internet, and seminar notes taken by each member of your group. • You are trying to convince other voters of the supreme importance of YOUR MESSAGE.
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3. THE CONVENTION: The students, acting as informed experts, give formal presentations to their peers in other (expert) groups or other classrooms on the team. The students communicate to each other the concepts and understandings they have learned.

- **Students Prepare for Infomercial Convention:** Students read the HyperStudio- based Research Summary created by each of the other 3 groups.
- **Students Attend Infomercial Convention:** Students present their Infomercial to each of the other 3 groups.
- **Crosstalk:** “Reflections on the 2001 Presidential Election Season.”

TEST SCORECARD

Name _____
 Hour _____
 Date _____

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

Finish your HyperStudio-based summary of research; remember, this is an intelligent “put-together” or composite of the print media, internet, and seminar notes taken by each member of your group.

Date Finished with Work at this Station _____ (G) Grade Received _____

INFOMERCIAL (HYPERSTUDIO-BASED)

Finish your HyperStudio-based Infomercial; remember this is a persuasive, high-impact information -commercial of all that your group has learned from the print media, Internet, and seminar notes taken by each member of your group. You are trying to convince other voters of the supreme importance of YOUR MESSAGE.

Date Finished with Work at this Station _____ (G) Grade Received _____