



Parent Email

Teaching Election Topics with Respect and Reason

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During the week of _____, our class will study elections using civil discourse methods. Civil discourse involves respectful discussion to build understanding. Instruction will remain neutral and nonpartisan. Through respectful dialogue, students will learn about the election process and its importance in our country. This approach improves subject-specific knowledge and communication skills. The topic in our discussion is part of our school curriculum and is supported by state learning standards.

There are many benefits to learning about elections through classroom discussion. By creating a respectful classroom environment and teaching students how to participate in discussions, we can help them develop critical thinking and learn how to verify information. Civil discourse has proven to increase student knowledge and aid the development of thoughtful opinions. **Multiple studies** have shown that **civil discourse methods** help students become informed and **civically engaged adults**.

During civil discourse lessons, students are expected to contribute positively to the discussion by:

- staying on topic and explaining reasons and evidence;
- building positively on one another's ideas;
- avoiding interruption;
- disagreeing respectfully; and
- encouraging everyone to speak.

Our class-created discussion norms are attached to this email for your reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. Thank you for supporting your child as they strengthen their communication skills by practicing civil discourse.

Sincerely,