

# Election Scrapbook Project

## Materials:

Newspapers, magazines, mailers, internet resources and campaign information; paper, scissors, glue, markers

Item 1: Meet the Candidate

Item 2: Functions of Political parties; **CE.5a**

Item 3: Similarities & Differences of Political Parties; **CE.5b**

Item 4: Mass Media's Roles in the Election; **CE.5c**

Item 5: Rising Campaign Costs; **CE.5d**

Item 6: Voter Registration; **CE.5e**

Item 7: Electoral *Collage*; **CE.5f**

(State [outline map](#): may be printed and copied for personal or classroom use.)

Thank you to Battlefield Middle School teachers Valerie Carter, Heather Drane, Michael Siedlecki and Kerri Yon for sharing instructions for this project.

## Item 1: Meet the Candidate

Create a collage on your chosen candidate.

Include **at least four** basic facts about the candidate. Choose from the following:

- hometown and state
- education
- spouse
- religion
- birth date
- children
- pets
- general information on the candidate's background

Use newspapers, magazines, mailers, internet resources, or any campaign information you can find.

## Item 2: Functions of Political Parties (ce5a)

Political parties play a role in government and provide opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process. Create a collage featuring your candidate that demonstrates the functions of a political party by including the following items

**(BE SURE TO LABEL EACH EXAMPLE)**

### **Functions of Political Parties**

#### **Nominating Candidates**

- name of your candidate's party
- picture of your candidate's party symbol

#### **Helping Candidates Win Elections**

- The name of a member of your candidate's political party who has endorsed him/ her
- Include a campaign ad for your candidate or write a review of a TV ad (can find on candidate's site)

#### **Monitoring the Actions of Officeholders**

- Include something that criticizes your candidate (preferably an article or opinion piece in which a member of an opposing party criticizes your candidate)

#### **Educating the Electorate about Campaign Issues**

An ad or article that states your candidate's position on a campaign issue

### Item 3: Similarities and Differences of Political Parties (ce5b)

Find articles, political cartoons, ads, and/or opinion pieces showing the Democrats and Republicans stance on **three** of the listed issues: the Economy; the Iraq war; Energy; the Environment; National Security; Terrorism; Foreign Affairs; Education; Immigration; Taxation. Include the examples in your scrapbook.

Front

Democratic	Differences of the Major Parties	Republican
Political Cartoon	The Economy	Ad
article	Immigration	Letter to the editor
Ad	Iraq War	Political Cartoon

Find the name and picture of a third party candidate to include in your scrapbook. Write a paragraph about whether or not you think they will influence the outcome of the upcoming election. Explain why or why not.

Back

Third Parties	
Pic	paragraph about whether or not you think he/she will influence the outcome of the election
Candidate's Name	
Party Name	

### Item 4: Mass Media's Roles in the Election (ce5c)

Front

**Mass Media's Roles in the Election**

Put 2 of the listed items on your page

**LABEL EACH**

#### Part 1:

Include **two (2)** of the following items in your scrapbook:

- A picture of any candidate and describe why you think it is favorable or unfavorable
- An article about a campaign issue that shows bias and describe how or why
- A summary of an editorial that describes the author's opinion. Tell why you agree or disagree with the opinion. (include the original article)
- A description of a political cartoon that explains the cartoonist's message (include the cartoon)

Back

**Mass Media's Roles in the Election**

#### Part 2: Design one (1) of the following:

- Editorial
- Political Cartoon
- Op-ed piece
- A 30-second commercial skit

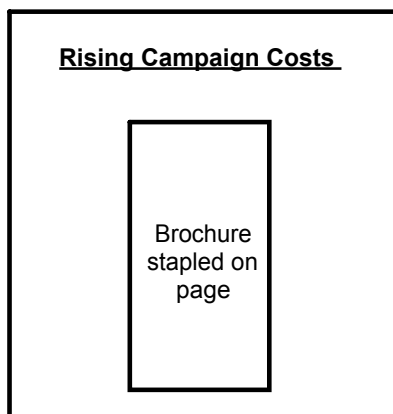
### Item 5: Rising Campaign Costs (ce5d)

Running for political office is expensive! *Create a brochure that explains the impact of the high cost of getting elected. The brochure **must include** the following:*

- The amount of money your candidate has raised during their campaign
- Examples of the types of things on which your candidate has spent money
- A list of PACs (Political Action Committees) who have donated money to support your candidate's campaign

Answer the following questions in your brochure:

- Who might be excluded from the political process due to rising campaign costs?
- How has the high cost of getting elected changed campaigning for public office?
- What is the maximum amount of money an individual can contribute to a campaign?



### Item 6: Voter Registration (ce5e)

Voting is a basic responsibility of citizenship. *Complete each of the following and include in your scrapbook.*

**Part 1:** *Attach a copy of your voter registration card from class*

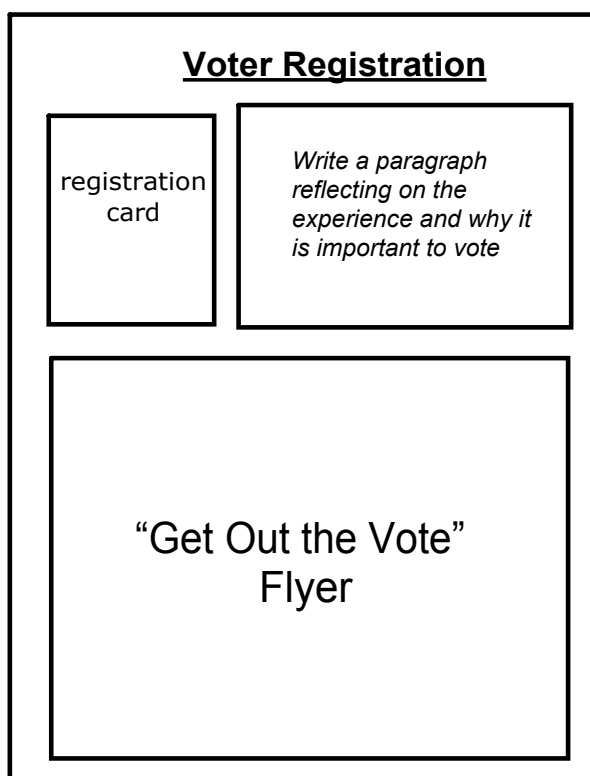
**Part 2:** Create a "Get Out the Vote" poster/flyer for the general public that includes:

- *Factors that influence voter turnout and registration*
- *The ways to register to vote in Virginia*
- *The factors that predict which citizens will vote*
- *Statements that encourage citizens to vote*

**Part 3:** Demonstrate the importance of voting:

*Participate in the mock election*

- *Write a paragraph reflecting on the experience and why it is important to vote*



## Item 7: Electoral Collage (ce5f)

The Electoral College system is used to elect the president and the vice president. How does it work? Use the map handouts to complete the following activities and include it in your scrapbook:

Find the most current Electoral College predictions and use them to create a map.

On your Electoral College map:

- Include a key that states what each color (symbol) on the map represents
- Color states **blue** which the Democrat is predicted to win
- Color states **red** which the Republican is predicted to win
- Color “toss-up” or undecided states tan or yellow
- Write the total number of predicted electoral votes for each candidate (Democrat, Republican, and undecided) next to their color (symbol) on the key

On election night, complete another map showing results! (attach this map to the back side of your Electoral Collage)