

Social Studies – U.S. Government and the Election

Final Demonstration of Learning

Greetings, political scientists. Over the past two and a half months, you have gathered *a lot* of information about the American political system and the factors that influenced the 2024 elections. You watched many, many (*many*) episodes of the *NewsHour*, you forgot to follow the criteria when you shared your research about a political figure who had a stake in or influenced the elections, you read some articles, you helped make a ginormous T-chart outlining the presidential candidates' positions on key issues, you ~~stole notes from each other~~ helped others by sharing notes, you learned about how disinformation shapes the unwary voter's opinions, you got to know a little of the wonder and splendour that is Judy Woodruff, you isolated important information in the *World Book* article about the three levels of U.S. government, you watched that guy who talked really fast about the bicameral congress, and you maybe sang to yourself inside your head while you watched *Schoolhouse Rock* cartoons.

Now the time has come to put all of that information together.

To that end, you have chosen a container in which to share your learning; regardless of what form your sharing takes, you will be demonstrating your knowledge about the following:

- The structure of the U.S. government—how each branch works separately and together
- The structure of the U.S. federal voting system—how it works
- The key issues that were at play in the election
- Your thoughts on why the election turned out the way that it did
- *Optional:* your thoughts on the possible short-term and long-term impacts of the election

Criteria:

- **Clarity of communication**—this will look different for each of you, depending on the container you are using; but what tools, techniques, and special features can you use to ensure your audience receives the information you are sharing clearly?
- Use of **specific examples**
- **Fact-based:** if you are expressing an opinion, you'll need to identify it as such; but how can you use facts to support the ideas you are sharing?
- **Depth and Complexity:** this might look like experimenting with using the Depth and Complexity icons; it might also look like asking and answering *how* and *why*

STEPS

□ **First step:**

Organize your notes: look through your binder and accordion folder and bring all Socials related notes and handouts together in one place.

Look through your comp book—carefully—and identify where your Socials notes are. Some people use small colored stickie tabs to identify these pages, or they cut regular stickie notes up into small tabs to do the same.

□ **Second step:**

Get yourself nice and calm and focused and look back over your notes. *This will take time.*

If you were making a web, the Big Idea that will occupy the big center container in your web would be U.S. Politics and the 2024 Election, but what would your Subtopics be? What does that idea (Big Idea, Sub-topic, Details) look like in your container?

There is no right number of Subtopics, but I am interested to see how you will organize all of these separate ideas into one cohesive whole. You are not expected to include every single idea from every single resource in your work; instead, pay attention to the patterns you notice in the material.

□ **Third step:**

Read the criteria carefully.

□ **Fourth step:**

Get building!

□ **Step Five:**

Reread the criteria. Make adjustments to your work.

□ **Step Six:**

Proofread all written text, sentence by sentence. Read it out loud.

☐ Step Seven:

Reread the criteria.

Have you covered all aspects of the criteria?

Have you done so to the best of your ability (without staying up late)?

Is there anything you want to adjust/add/change/tweak?

☐ Step Eight:

Share your learning and then do something nice for yourself.

Why are you still reading this: get to work!