

# NOT YOU'RE ^ Elected, CHARLIE BROWN™

## Dear Educator:

Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, and the other members of the Peanuts Gang are in full-fledged campaign mode in *You're Not Elected, Charlie Brown*, a story that can help your students prepare for the upcoming presidential election.

The award-winning curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired (YMI) have developed this program to help students in grades K to 2 learn about elections while encouraging their parents to vote, adding a new dimension—and a little extra fun—to your social studies curriculum.

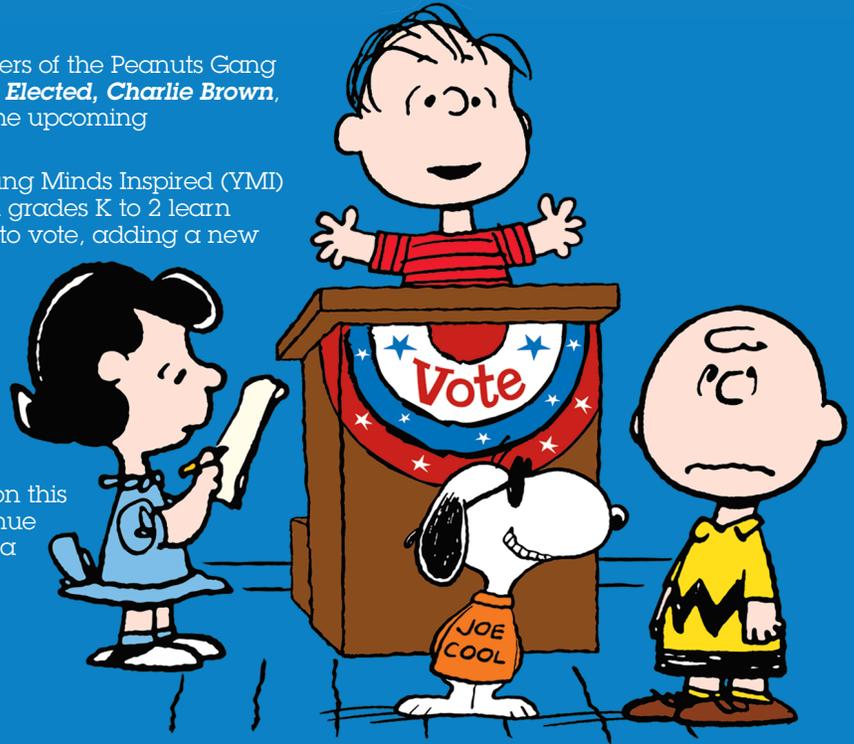
The activities can be used whether or not your students view *You're Not Elected, Charlie Brown*. Make as many copies of these copyrighted materials as you need, and please share them with other teachers in your school.

Please comment online at [ymiclassroom.com/feedback-peanuts](http://ymiclassroom.com/feedback-peanuts) to let us know your thoughts on this program. We depend on your feedback to continue providing free educational programs that make a real difference in students' lives.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley  
Editor in Chief  
Young Minds Inspired



## Show Synopsis

It's election time at Birchwood School, and Lucy is at it again. After she conducts a poll that tells her Charlie Brown would never be elected student body president, she throws her brother Linus into the campaign fray. Linus being Linus, after accepting Schroeder's nomination, gets a bit carried away. His campaign promises range from the outrageous—riding the school of all false idols—to the unlikely—wage increases for custodians, teachers, and all members of the administrative staff. But his campaign speeches are greeted with cheers and applause. Until, that is, he invokes the Great Pumpkin and the cheers turn to jeers. Linus squeaks out a victory, however, winning the election by just one vote. Full of his grand ideas (and more than a little full of himself), he marches off to the principal's office to "lay down the law." Instead, he gets a cold dose of reality and a very rude awakening!

## Program Objectives

- To increase student interest in the 2016 presidential election.
- To foster student understanding about the campaign process.
- To help students understand the role that campaign tactics play in the political process.
- To encourage parents to engage in voting as a model for children to follow.

## Target Audience

This program has been designed for students in grades K-2.

## How To Use This Program

Review, photocopy, and distribute the reproducible activity sheets at the beginning of each activity. Modify the activities as necessary to meet the needs and abilities of your students.

## Standards Alignment

National Standards for Social Studies	Activity 1	Activity 2
Locate, access, and analyze information about public issues.	X	
Identify and practice forms of civic discussion and participation.	X	X
Recognize that a variety of formal and informal factors influence and shape public policy.	X	X
Examine the influence of public opinion on personal decision-making and government policy.		X



Questions? Contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by e-mail at [feedback@ymiclassroom.com](mailto:feedback@ymiclassroom.com).

Watch *You're Not Elected, Charlie Brown*, available on DVD, as you count down to the 2016 presidential election on November 8th.

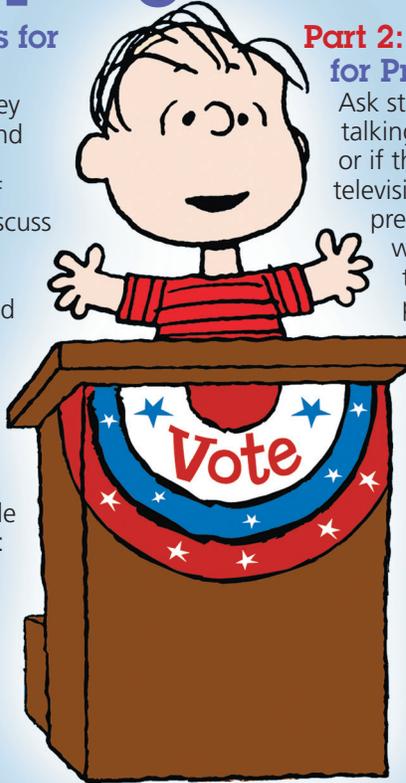
# Campaign Promises

## ACTIVITY ONE

### Part 1: Linus for President

Ask students if they have ever made, and then kept, a promise.

Then, ask them how they would feel if someone broke a promise to them. Discuss why promises are important—both at the home and school level and at the presidential level—and why they should be kept whenever possible (because it shows good character and respect for someone). With your students, review the synopsis of Linus's campaign promises on the activity sheet. Ask students to circle the promises in the list that are their favorites. Then provide time for them to share their responses: Which ones do they think Linus could keep? Which ones do they think he wouldn't be able to keep? Discuss why Linus could not keep some of the promises, and why that would be a problem if he disappointed those who believed he could keep them.



### Part 2: Today's Candidates for President

Ask students if they have heard their parents talking about the 2016 presidential election, or if they have heard anything about it on television. Ask them what kinds of promises the presidential candidates might be making, and whether or not they think the voters believe those promises. Ask students to share any promises they've heard from the presidential candidates. Which promises do they think are most important? Why? Ask students to think about what promises they would make if they were running for class president, reminding them that promises should be kept. Have them write their promises in the space on the activity sheet, and provide help for younger students if needed.

**Extended Activity:** Write students' promises for class president on the board and ask students to decide if they think those promises can be kept. Let students vote for the ones they like best.

## ACTIVITY TWO

# For Whom the Polls Toll

### Part 1: Where We Stand

Introduce this activity by reminding students of a time they voted on something in the classroom.

Ask students to give you a "thumbs up" if they think it's important to vote. Discuss why it's important. Point out that in the DVD *You're Not Elected, Charlie Brown*, Linus wins the election by just one vote—Russell's vote. Ask what would have happened if Russell had voted for himself, like his friends did. Instead, Russell let Linus win because he truly believed Linus was the better candidate. Talk about how it's important for everyone—adults and children—to vote in support of their own beliefs, rather than copying a friend's opinion.

### Part 2: Our Election

Briefly discuss with your students why, when Lucy polled the students, many said they would vote for Linus. Talk about the fact that Linus is kind, and people think he's a good friend. Ask students to think about the role character traits play in a presidential candidate. Would Lucy make a good president? She likes to be in charge, and maybe that's a good character trait in a president, because a president has to be a good leader. Tell students to take home the activity sheet and work with a parent to fill in the chart for the characters



profiled at the Peanuts for President website at [www.peanutsrocksthevote.com](http://www.peanutsrocksthevote.com) to complete each section of the chart. When students return the activity sheets to class, have them vote for their choice, then compile the results and announce which Peanuts character won the election.

**Extended Activity:** Ask students to create campaign signs for their favorite Peanuts character as part of the election process.

### Internet Resources for Teachers

- Peanuts "Vote for President" site  
[www.peanutsrocksthevote.com](http://www.peanutsrocksthevote.com)
- CNN Politics site (current political information)  
[www.cnn.com/politics](http://www.cnn.com/politics)
- C-SPAN Politics (another good source for current political information)  
[www.c-span.org/series/?campaign2016](http://www.c-span.org/series/?campaign2016)
- News Hour 2016 (a PBS site that documents the election process)  
[www.pbs.org/newshour/tag/vote-2016](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/tag/vote-2016)
- Politics 1 (an informative, easy-to-use site with nonpartisan information that includes extensive coverage of federal and state politics)  
[www.politics1.com](http://www.politics1.com)
- Teaching Kids About Politics (information for parents on helping kids become politically media-savvy)  
<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/14-tips-to-steer-kids-of-all-ages-through-the-political-season>



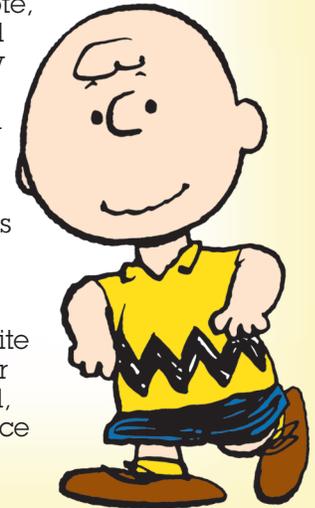


# For Whom the Polls Toll

## Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please take time to complete this activity sheet with your child. We've been learning about the election process and the current presidential election in class, using Charles Schulz's classic Peanuts story, **You're Not Elected, Charlie Brown**, to add some extra interest and fun. In this story—which is available on DVD from Warner Home Video—Linus runs for student body president. Despite some outrageous campaign promises and a serious stumble along the way, he squeaks out a victory—but only by a single vote—and we are left to wonder if the best candidate won after all.

We've also been talking about the importance of voting. In the DVD, Linus wins the election by just one vote. In class, we discussed why it's important for everyone to vote, because one vote can make a huge difference. We talked about how even though students are too young to vote, their parents are not, and how it's important that adults be registered to vote well before the election on November 8th to help set an example for children to follow as they grow up. Children are naturally fascinated by the election process, and we encourage you to involve your child in the election to the extent that you feel comfortable.

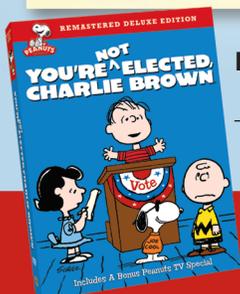


One fun way to let your child participate in an election is to help him or her research the Peanuts "candidates" from the DVD and then fill in the chart below. You can learn more about the characters and their campaign promises by visiting the Peanuts "Vote for President" website at [www.peanutsrocksthevote.com](http://www.peanutsrocksthevote.com). Help your child fill in the chart and then return it to school, where we will compile the results and announce the winner!

## Where We Stand

Peanuts Character	Character Traits	Campaign Promises	Whose position do you agree with?
Linus	kind, good friend	Hold bake sales to fix playground equipment.	

Be sure to complete the shaded columns and have your child bring the chart back to class.



Based on the information in the chart, which candidate would your family vote for?

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