



Campaign Promises

Part 1: Linus for President

Running a good campaign is an important part of winning an election. That's because the candidate needs to tell the voters who he or she is, why he or she is the best person for the job, and what he or she will do if elected. But, sometimes, candidates can get a little bit carried away...

In Linus's campaign for student body president in *You're Not Elected, Charlie Brown*, he makes all kinds of promises. For example:

- He's in favor of recess.
- He's against homework.
- He wants to do away with cap and gown kindergarten graduations.
- He wants to do away with sixth-grade dance parties.
- He thinks dogs should be welcomed at school.

He also makes a few promises that were very unclear and some that don't have anything to do with being student body president. For example, he promises to demand "immediate improvements" and "across the board wage increases for custodians, teachers, and all administrative personnel."



Linus has all the kids in his corner with the promises he makes (they even cheer for the ones that don't make any sense). But when he starts talking about the Great Pumpkin, it's a different story...

1. Do you think all of Linus's promises are realistic? _____

Why or why not? _____

2. Why do you think it's important for a candidate to make realistic promises?

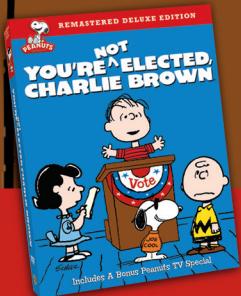
3. What are some realistic promises that Linus could make as part of his platform for student body president? _____

Part 2. Today's Candidates for President

The promises that a candidate makes are sometimes called a platform. Let's take a look at some of the things that the candidates who are running for president of the United States this year have been promising. Working together with your parents or other family members, fill in this chart. Write down each candidate's name, their main platform ideas, and what is appealing or not appealing about that candidate and/or their platform. If you need more space, continue your list on another sheet of paper.

Bring your chart back to class to share your responses.

Candidate's Name	Main Platform Ideas	Appealing or Not?



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