

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 6 to 8 examine the issues as well as the campaign tactics that candidates employ in the pursuit of victory, adding a new dimension—and a little extra fun—to your social studies curriculum.

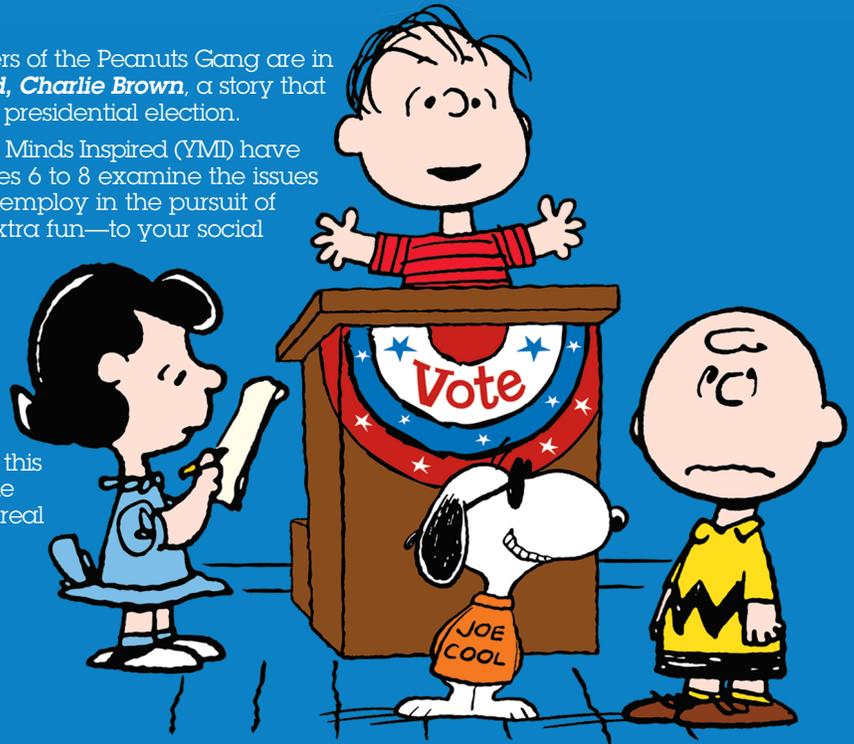
The activities can be used whether or not your students view **You're Not Elected, Charlie Brown**. Make as many copies of these copyrighted materials as you need, and please share them with other teachers in your school.

Please comment online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-peanuts 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 generate awareness of the important issues associated with the 2016 presidential election.
- 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 6-8.

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	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	X



Questions? Contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by e-mail at 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

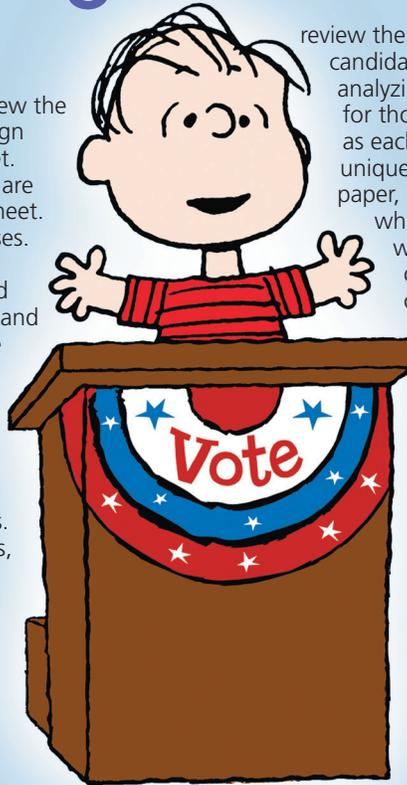
Part 1: Linus for President

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 and answer the questions on the sheet. Then provide time for them to share their responses. Here are some additional questions to discuss: Do your students think that Linus actually believed he could do all those things? Did he even understand some of what he was saying—or did he say those things just to get elected?

Part 2: Today's Candidates for President

Students should complete Part 2 of this activity at home, with their parents or other family members. When students return with their completed charts,



review the information with the class. Discuss the candidates for president and their platforms, analyzing why voters might or might not vote for those candidates. Include factors such as each candidate's personality, beliefs, and unique qualities. Then, on a separate piece of paper, have students write a paragraph about which candidate they would vote for and why, citing the qualities already discussed or other, additional factors that they consider important.

Extended Activity: Depending on your assessment of class dynamics, consider letting students debate their positions, based on their written paragraphs.

ACTIVITY TWO

For Whom the Polls Toll

Part 1: Where We Stand

The first part of this activity should be completed at home. Explain to students that they should work with their parents or other family members to fill in the chart

on the activity sheet. Students will review the presidential candidates' platforms, list their issues of concern, and decide whose position they agree with. When students return to class with their completed charts, review the information with the class. Discuss what might happen if students could ask the presidential candidates about the issues they care most about. Then have students pair off and roleplay as interviewer and candidate to discuss the particular issue(s).

Part 2: Our Election

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, Linus wins the election by just one vote. Ask students if they know if their parents are registered to vote, and if they aren't sure, encourage them to ask their parents about it. Tell students that you don't have to be old enough to vote to be an important part of the election process. Remind them that being involved with and educated about current events is important. Brainstorm ways that students can be involved in and informed about the upcoming presidential election and write the ideas on a dry-erase board, e.g., watching the debates and discussing election issues with their



parents, volunteering at the local campaign headquarters, writing an article or a blog about the election for the school newspaper, etc. Note the election process shown in the DVD—i.e., when Lucy takes polls and Snoopy creates campaign posters. The ask students to choose one way they can stay informed and involved in the upcoming election, and write about how they can implement their ideas on the back of the sheet.

Extended Activity: Have students create and maintain a multimedia bulletin board that changes as the election process unfolds, showing poll and convention results, recent newspaper articles, and other election media.

Internet Resources for Teachers

- Peanuts "Vote for President" site
www.peanutsrocksthevote.com
- CNN Politics site (current political information)
www.cnn.com/politics
- C-SPAN Politics (another good source for current political information)
www.c-span.org/series/?campaign2016
- News Hour 2016 (a PBS site that documents the election process)
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
- Teaching Kids About Politics (information for parents on helping kids become politically media-savvy)
<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/14-tips-to-ster-kids-of-all-ages-through-the-political-season>



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?

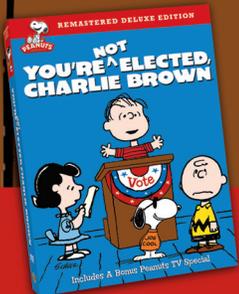
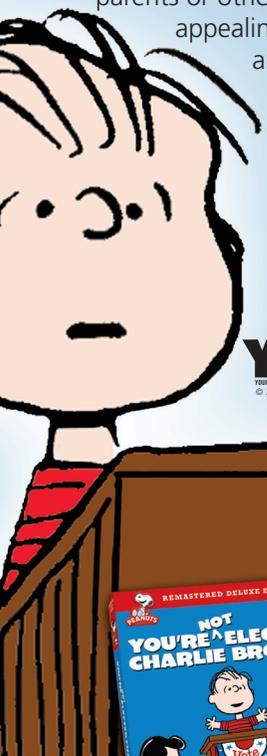
3. What are some realistic promises that Linus could make as part of his platform for student body president? _____

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?



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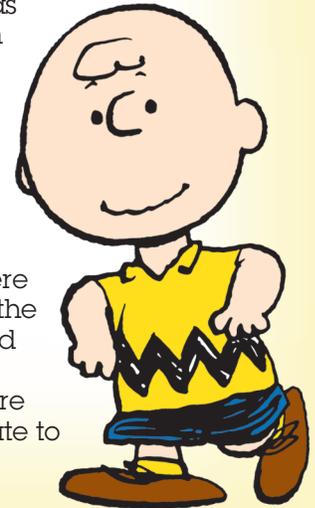


For Whom the Polls Toll

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 because—as in the DVD—one vote can make a difference. Your child can learn about the voting process and the importance of registering to vote at Rock the Vote (www.rockthevote.com/), a non-profit organization that, since 1990, has fused pop culture, music, art, and technology to fulfill its mission of building long-term youth political power, to help him or her learn about the registration process. Set an example for your child by registering if you haven't yet, and be sure to cast your vote on November 8th.

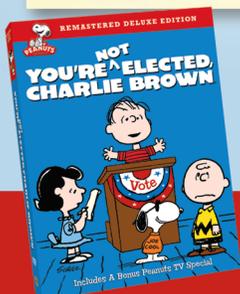


In this activity, you and your child will review the presidential candidates' platforms, listing issues of concern, and decide whose position you agree with and why—just as if your child were going to vote. Your child should then return the completed chart to school. In class, your child will discuss which candidate they agree with and participate in a role-playing activity where they can act as both interviewer and candidate to discuss the particular issues.

Where We Stand

The Issues	_____ 's Position	_____ 's Position	Whose position do you agree with?

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



Now compare the positions the Peanuts characters have taken in this year's election by visiting the "Vote for President" website at www.peanutsrocksthevote.com.



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