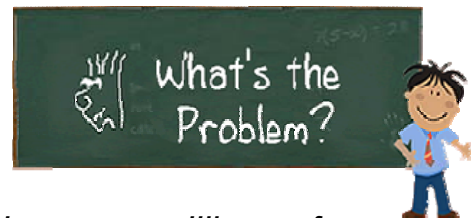


Teacher Instructions:



Problem Scenario: *The Voting Age*

The Main Problem: *This year is an election year, which means millions of American citizens will be casting their vote. However, only those who are 18 and older are allowed to vote in federal elections. Should the minimum voting age be lowered, or even abolished? What are the issues involved?*

Your students will be viewing this problem from an **integrated** perspective.



Should the minimum voting age be lowered (or abolished)?

Students will review the current voting criteria, as well as arguments for and against young children being involved in politics and even voting.

Step ①

**Review
Stimulus
Items**

Stimulus Item #1 — “Voting Eligibility” (fact list)

Stimulus Item #2 — “Abolish the Voting Age” (blog entry)

**Stimulus Item #3 — “Should Children Follow Politics?”
(online discussion)**

***Students should take notes as they review the Stimulus Items*

Step ②

**Classroom
Discussion**

Lead a **class discussion** about issues related to the topic. You are being provided a sheet to help you guide the classroom discussion.

Extended Responses: Have students answer the following questions. Remind students to use information from the Stimulus Items to support their response.

1. **How would politics change if the minimum voting age were lowered from 18 to 10? What if there was no minimum voting age at all?**
2. **The minimum voting age is currently 18 years old for federal elections. What should it be, and why?**

Step ③

**Student
Response**

****students should have access to their notes as they enter their answers*

****students may also have access to the Stimulus Items as they enter their answers*

EXTENDED PRODUCT (Optional): Divide students into small groups, and tell them that the minimum voting age for the next presidential election has been lowered to 8 years old (for this exercise only, of course!). Have each group organize the campaign for a candidate, with the goal of winning the youth vote. The groups must consider what issues the politicians should focus on, as well as the events they should host. The groups can write a short **television campaign ad** for the candidate that is aimed at children. As a class, discuss whether having children vote would improve or hurt the democratic process.

Step ④

Analysis

Rubrics to grade student entries have been provided, and all questions have been mapped to the content standards.