12th Grade Political Party Inquiry

Do Any Political Parties Represent Me?

Staging the Question: Students take a political quiz through the University of Virginia Center for Politics that places them on a political continuum.

Social Studies Practices	◉ Gathering, Using, and Interpreting Evidence ◉ Civic Participation

Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3	Supporting Question 4
Which international issues are most important to me?	Which domestic issues are most important to me?	Which national party platform best supports my stance on political issues?	How do politicians address issues that are important to me?
Formative Performance Task	**Formative Performance Task**	**Formative Performance Task**	**Formative Performance Task**
Rank international issues from most to least important to you, and write a paragraph explaining that ranking.	Rank domestic issues from most to least important to you, and write a paragraph explaining that ranking.	Chart how different political parties respond to your stances on political issues, and make a claim or series of claims that answers the supporting question.	Research a politician and make a claim that addresses the supporting question.

Integration of Inquiry Process and Skills

Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3	Supporting Question 4
Connect: Finds areas of passion or interest by taking a political quiz to help them determine which political party most closely mirrors their opinions.	**Connect: Finds areas of passion or interest** that relate to domestic issues.	**Connect: States and verifies what is known about the question and makes connections to prior knowledge.** **Graphic Organizer:** Connect#14	**Connect: Identifies key words, concepts, and synonyms, both stated and implied, for topic and uses them to further research.** **Graphic Organizer:** Connect#19
Wonder:	**Wonder:**	**Wonder: Refines questions to provide a framework for the inquiry and to fulfill the purpose of the research** to identify which national party platform best supports their stance on political issues. **Graphic Organizer:** Wonder#19 and Wonder#20	**Wonder: Plans inquiry to gather evidence to validate thesis** about a politician's stance on an issue of importance to them. **Graphic Organizer:** Wonder#21 and Wonder#22
Investigate: Recognizes the effect of perspective and points of view on information while reading one-page fact sheets from Ontheissues.org that cover foreign policy, war and peace, immigration, and free trade. **Graphic Organizer:** Investigate#76	**Investigate: Recognizes the effect of perspective and points of view on information** while reading one-page fact sheets from Ontheissues.org that cover jobs, the environment, health care, gun control, and civil rights. **Graphic Organizer:** Investigate#76	**Investigate: Recognizes the effect of different perspectives and points of view on information** while reading the political platform statements for the Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, and Green parties. **Graphic Organizer:** Investigate#76	**Investigate: Evaluates the authority of a source** and its information about a politician **by assessing the credentials and reputation of the author, creator and publisher** while conducting research on politicians and their stances. C3 Resources
Construct: Ranks international issues from most to least important to them.	**Construct:** Ranks domestic issues from most to least important to them.	**Construct: Draws clear and appropriate conclusions supported by evidence and examples.** **Graphic Organizer:** Construct#40 and Construct#41	**Construct: Critically examines and analyzes relevant information from a variety of sources to discover relationships among ideas** about how a particular politician addresses issues that are important to them.
Express: Writes a paragraph explaining that ranking.	**Express:** Writes a paragraph explaining that ranking.	**Express:** Charts how different political parties respond to their stances on political issues, and makes a claim or series of claims that answers the supporting question.	**Express:** Makes a claim about how a politician addresses issues that are important to them.
Reflect:	**Reflect:**	**Reflect:**	**Reflect: Records individual experience of the inquiry process with suggestions for future improvements.** **Graphic Organizer:** Reflect#23

Summative Performance Task: *Argument:* Do any political parties represent me? Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question "Do any political parties represent me?" using specific claims and relevant evidence from contemporary sources while acknowledging competing views. *Extension:* Create a political party platform based on the issues students believe are the most important.