

Structure & Function Of Gov't – Canada & USA

Rigorous and Relevant Anchor Activity
Colleen Blimke

Student Name _____

Step 1: Read the Principles of Democracy handout 1.1. Hi-lite key ideas within each definition.

Step 2: As a class, discuss Rights and Responsibilities....what is a responsibility?

What responsibilities come along with our rights and freedoms? Use the Chart below to discuss examples:

Right	Responsibility
The right to vote	The responsibility to cast a ballot and make an informed decision.
The right for any person to not be discriminated against	To demonstrate tolerance and respect for diversity of background, gender, ethnicity, race and religion.
Freedom of expression	The responsibility not to slander someone or to spread hate propaganda.

Step 3: Using Handout 2.4, examine voter turnout rates by age group at the federal level and initiate a class discussion on the following ideas

- Which age group had the highest voter turnout? _____
- Which age group had the lowest? _____
- Discuss the impact of voter turnout among different age groups. How does it influence the results of an election? Which age groups would politicians want to speak to more?

- Consider possible reasons for these differences. What does it say about different age groups? What does it say about our election process?

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Step 4: Watch Rick's Rant – March 29, 2011 at a humorous but insightful look at voting in Canada.

Step 5: Read and hi-lite key ideas in Handout 2.1 – Highlight from the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the History of Voting Rights in Canada
Handout 2.2

Complete the following questions.

- a. What is universal suffrage? _____
- b. Before 1900, who was allowed to vote in Canadian elections? Who was not allowed to vote? _____

- c. Summarize the story of women's suffrage. When were women allowed to vote in Canada? When were women allowed to vote in Alberta? _____

- d. How has voting been made more accessible and convenient for voters? _____

- e. Do you believe it is important to vote? Why or why not? _____

Step 6: Complete worksheet 3.1 Government in Canada

Step 7: Read - Government Responsibilities Handout 3.2.

Step 8: Read – The Basic Political Spectrum – Handout 4.1

Step 9: Go to www.electionscanada.ca Using your postal code, determine your local candidates:

Political Party	Candidate

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Step 11: Compare and Contrast the Canadian and USA and the Swedish Systems of Gov't

Comparing Canada/USA and Swedish Systems of Government

	Canada	USA	Sweden
Criteria			
<i>Head of State</i>			
<i>Official Name of Democracy</i>			
<i>Structure/Branches</i>			
<i>Calling of Elections (who and how often)</i>			
<i>Passing a bill into law</i>			
<i>Other Key terms</i>			

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Step 12: Canadian Political Party Platforms...Understanding the Issues and Platforms of Canadian Political Parties.

PARTY PLATFORM	Conservative Party of Canada	Liberal Party Of Canada	New Democratic Party	Green Party Of Canada	Libertarian Party Of Canada
ECONOMIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a "family tax cut" Increase tax free savings account (TFSA) to \$10000 Increase universal child care benefit (UCCCB) Reduce corporate Tax rate Increase eligibility of (OAS) to 67 Create 1.3 million new jobs by 2020 \$670 million tax relief to Canadian seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut middle class tax bracket to 20.5% Cancel income splitting for families Tax-free monthly child benefit for income below \$150000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not raise personal income-tax rates Cancel income splitting for families Create \$15 per day national child-care program; increase child-care spaces Raise the federal minimum wage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate personal taxes on incomes below \$20000 Reduce federal small-business tax 9% by 2019 Raise corporate tax 19% over 4 years Increase taxes on tobacco and alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce income taxes 15% income tax exemption to \$17,300 (Child, Senior, Disability, Student) tax exemptions, valued at \$4,000 End all forms of corporate welfare Gradually phase out government control over the money supply
SECURITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to a military mission against ISIL Passed anti- terrorism Bill C-51 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End Campaign in Iraq and Syria; boost humanitarian aid Amend Bill C-51 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End campaign in Iraq and Syria; boost humanitarian aid to help refugees Repeal Bill C-51 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a comprehensive security plan to coordinate all security agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Withdraw Canadian armed forces from foreign affairs to national defense, and Arctic sovereignty.
ECO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline \$300 million to the UN Green Climate Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to oppose northern gateway pipeline adjust national park admission fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue opposing the Northern Gate way pipeline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce carbon pricing through a fee-and-dividend system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm and property damage as a result of pollution can be dealt through the judicial system.
SOCIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase annual health funding to provinces in 2017-18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore Door-to-Door mail delivery Reinstate long-form census 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore Door-to-Door mail delivery Reinstate long-form census 6% to provincial health-care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban unpaid internships Boost access to apprentice programs in key trades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeal the Canada Health Act to ensure that healthcare is a provincial responsibility; allow private alternatives for care and insurance
JUSTICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will not De criminalize/ Legalize Marijuana Re-introduce tabled legislation to imprison brutal criminals for life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legalize marijuana; allow it to be sold and taxed at approved locations Consider mandatory minimum sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately decriminalize marijuana; open to legalization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeal the governments criminal laws creating mandatory minimum sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposes the criminalization of victimless crime Legalize sex work Legalizing marijuana

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Step 13:

Task: Critique the job Trudeau is doing in maintaining his elections promises. Attach evidence to suggest how/ when/if the issue has been addressed. Comment on the bulleted ideas and add any other accomplishments by the Liberal Party of Canada.

Issue/Proposal	Accomplished?
Economic <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cut middle class taxes• Cancel income splitting• Tax-free monthly child benefits	
Security <ul style="list-style-type: none">• End Campaign in Syria• Boost humanitarian aide• Amend Bill 51	
Eco <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to oppose Northern Gateway Pipeline• Adjust National Park Entrance fee	
Social <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restore door-to-door mail delivery• Reinstate the long form census	
Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legalize Marijuana – allow it to be taxed and sold at approved locations• Consider mandatory minimum sentences	

How Has Trudeau performed in regards to upholding election promises? (in your opinion)

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Step 14:

Task: Senate Reform and The Duffy Trial!

a. 'Triple E' senate reform (explained)



Senators Per Province

Alberta	- 6
British Columbia	- 6
Manitoba	- 6
New Brunswick	- 10
NL	- 6
NWT	- 1
Nova Scotia	- 10
Nunavut	- 1
Ontario	- 24
PEI	- 4
Quebec	- 24
Saskatchewan	- 6
Yukon	- 1

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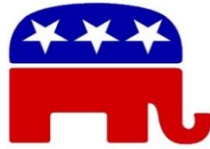
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The Charges	The Players Involved	Other Senators charged	Trial Outcome/Implicit

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Task 15: The American Election



Republicans:

Democrats:

Proposed Platforms:	Ted Cruz	Donald Trump	Hilary Clinton	Bernie Sanders
Economic				
Security				
Social				
Environmental				
Social				
Role of Media:				
Other??				

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Task 16: (Handin) In paragraph form, respond to the following essential question:

If you were of age to vote (and were American) who would you vote for and why?

Consider the following questions...

- What is the most important issue to you in this American election campaign and why?
- Review each political party's position on this issue. Which party's position do you support most and why?
- Compare the leaders of the federal political parties. Which leader do you feel will make the best President? Why?

Elections Rubric

Student Name _____

	Excellent (5) insightful, sophisticated, perceptive, comprehensive	Proficient (4) sound adept, purposeful	Satisfactory (3) straightforward conventional generalized	Limited (2) incomplete lacks depth, oversimplified	Poor (1) Vague Confus -ed	INC (0)
Completion of Tasks 1.1, 2.4,2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2 , 4.2						
VoteCompass and Response (x2)						
Structure of Gov't/Party Platforms (x3)						
Senate						
Essential Question: Who YOU Would vote for and why (x4)						

Total Mark = **/55**

Comments:

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