



Inspiring Politics in Our Classroom: Lesson 1

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Background

Inspire Politics hopes to provide a vehicle for Hawaii's youth to stay informed and active in local issues. The mission of this innovative and live website is to be informative, interactive, educational, and above all inspiring to youth so that they will ultimately participate in civic action.

In these three self-standing standards-based lessons, students will have the opportunity to examine the numerous facets of the website, Inspire Politics. It begins with a lesson that educates students on the political landscape where they must identify their local leaders who are role models in the political process. Then students engage in a critical online discussion on the significance of their involvement in politics, which will motivate them into thinking about what they can do to make a difference in Hawaii.

Overview

Lessons	HCPS Standards	Time Frame
<u>Lesson 1.</u> Who are My Leaders?	Standard 5: Political Science/Civics: PARTICIPATION AND CITIZENSHIP Topic. Citizenship Participation Benchmark. Compare the characteristics of major political parties based upon the philosophy, platform, and support base	1 period
<u>Lesson 2.</u> Why Should I Participate in Civic Action?	Standard 5: Political Science/Civics: PARTICIPATION AND CITIZENSHIP Topic. Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens Benchmark. Explain the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy and the relationship between them	1 period
<u>Lesson 3.</u> What Can I Do?	Standard 5: Political Science/Civics: PARTICIPATION AND CITIZENSHIP Topics. Citizenship Participation Benchmarks. Explain the role of a citizen in the electoral process. Investigate how citizens can monitor and advocate for a local, state, or national issue. Demonstrate the role of a citizen in civic action by selecting a problem, gathering information, proposing a solution, creating an action plan, and showing evidence of implementation	1-4 periods



LESSON 1. “WHO ARE MY LEADERS?”

Time: 1 period

Materials

- Computer access
- HI Politics Quiz Worksheet

Hawaii Content Performance Standards

Strand	Political Science/Civics
Standard 5: Political Science/Civics: PARTICIPATION AND CITIZENSHIP-Understand roles, rights (personal, economic, political), and responsibilities of American citizens and exercise them in civic action	

Topic	Citizenship Participation		
Benchmark SS.9PD.5.3	Compare the characteristics of major political parties based upon the philosophy, platform, and support base		
Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)	The student: Compares the major political parties based upon the philosophy, platform, and support base.		
Rubric			
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice
Analyze the characteristics of major political parties based upon the philosophy, platform, and support base, making significant connections, insights, and generalizations	Compare the characteristics of major political parties based upon the philosophy, platform, and support base	Describe the characteristics of major political parties based upon the philosophy, platform, and/or support base	Ineffectively describe the characteristics of major political parties based upon the philosophy, platform, and/or support base

Lesson Objectives

The students will be able to:

- (1) identify their city, state and national political representatives
- (2) compare and contrast local leaders political philosophies and viewpoints



Procedure

Opening

1. Ask students to rate their knowledge of Hawaii Politics on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being “Advanced” to 1 being “Novice.” Why do they rate themselves this way? Discuss reasons for knowledge or ignorance.

Hawaii Politics Quiz

2. Have individual students take Hawaii Politics Quiz to assess their own knowledge of state politics. After students complete the quiz, they may talk to their peers to discuss answers.

Political Knowledge

3. Have students visit “Inspire Politics.com.” Students may set up login and password. They may explore the site to find the answers to their quiz.

4. Create a flowchart on the hierarchy and relationships between the students’ different representatives. Print out pictures of national, state and local leaders to be on the flowchart. Display flowchart poster in the classroom.

5. If there is enough diversity in the classroom, facilitate a classroom discussion on the commonalities and differences of each of their state senate and house representatives based on three issues (i.e. education, economy, environment)

6. Have students find an elected leader from a different political party (i.e. Democrat, Republican, Independent) and/ or geographic area (district, neighbor island) from their own. Compare and contrast the characteristics of these two political parties based upon the philosophy, platform, and support base.

Closing: Making Connections

7. Ask students if they agree with the philosophy and platform of their representative. Why or why not? If you could ask your state representative one question, what would it be?

Suggested Assessment

8. Create a T-chart outlining the different political philosophy and views on three issues between you, one of your representatives, and an elected leader from a different political party and/or geographic area.

Enrich/Expand

9. Have students conduct Hawaii Politics Quiz on their parents. Students return results and assist parents and siblings in registering as a member of Inspire Politics.



HAWAII POLITICS QUIZ

National

1. How many U.S. Senators does Hawaii have? _____
2. How many U.S. Representatives in Congress does Hawaii have? _____
3. Name Hawaii's U.S. Senators _____
4. Name Hawaii's U.S. Representatives in Congress _____

State

5. How many Hawaii State Senators are there? _____
6. Who is the State Senate President? _____
7. Who is the State Senator that represents your district? _____
8. What is his/her political affiliation? Circle: Democrat Republican Independent
9. What political committees does he/she sit on?

10. How many State Representatives are there? _____
11. Who is the State Speaker of the House? _____
12. Who is your State Representative? _____
13. What is his/her political affiliation? Circle: Democrat Republican Independent
14. What political committees does he/she sit on?

Local

15. What is the role of the City Council? _____

16. Who is your City Councilmember? _____