



Democracy 101

New Jersey Student/Parent Mock Election



This is the second of four campaign issues that will be on the 2008 national Mock Election ballot.

The content of this page offers teachers some ideas for student projects as they prepare to vote in the Mock Election in October.

Question 2: The Wars

Which one of the following statements most closely reflects your beliefs about American involvement in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

a. The United States should stay in Iraq and Afghanistan until all our military and political goals are achieved, even if it takes decades. Our security and interests are paramount. As the only world superpower, we can do things alone and without concern to world public opinion.

b. The wars are still to be won and its goals achieved. When the military and political situations improve in Iraq and Afghanistan there should be a slow gradual withdraw of American troops.

c. The wars have not been successful in achieving the goal of making our nation safer. Our international reputation has been harmed. American casualties have been much greater than expected. All American combat troops should return home when the political status of Iraq and Afghanistan improves.

d. The wars have severely damaged the reputation and power of the United States. It is in the best interest of our country that our armed forces immediately leave Iraq and Afghanistan in an orderly manner. Let the people of both countries resolve their own internal problems, with the U.S. giving economic help when needed.

e. Uncertain, need to learn more about this issue.

Campaign Issue 2

U.S. Involvement in the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

Explore

What is the position of each candidate for President of the United States? Go to www.njmockelection.org and examine the links in the right column of that web page. For example, www.ontheissues.org offers a comparison of Senator McCain's and Senator Obama's opinions. The editorials published in New Jersey's newspapers, as well as news articles on the Internet, offer timely information about the candidate's positions and statements they make every day.

Express

Students can write letters to the editor for the school newspaper and send brief "essays" on this issue to the local newspaper as a letter to the editor. The list of New Jersey newspapers is available at: www.njpa.org.

Debate

This and other campaign issues offer great material for students to conduct debates in classes. The school's debate team coach (or any teacher) can organize and videotape a debate within the school or with a neighboring school. Clips of the debate can be sent to YouTube, which has already received numerous Mock Election videos produced by students. This is a great way to put N.J. schools on display.

Create

Students can create their own colorful "Support Our Troops" ribbons similar to those seen on many car bumpers.

Coming October 7: The Energy Crisis

This page was prepared and distributed by the New Jersey Press Foundation, as part of its statewide literacy and Newspaper in Education Program.

For past issues: www.njmockelection.org