

# CIVIL DISCOURSE DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2024

### Rationale

During the 2024 Election cycle, the mainstream media and social media platforms will provide students and staff with many memes, viral videos, soundbites, clickbait headlines, and heavily biased news stories aiming to degrade opponents and promote a single candidate. This will likely prevent productive debates on crucial policy ideas among citizens nationwide.

It is our goal, as an [Ellington Elementary School](#) community, to allow students and staff to apply our “Seeds of Civility” for **1**) 6th graders to discuss the complex Presidential Election Process **2**) 4th and 5th graders to explore the right to vote and debate the lowering of the voting age, and **3**) K-3 students to understand what is an election and why voting is important.

Grade 6

### THE ROAD to the WHITE HOUSE

Students will explore the overall process, influences, and systems regarding a candidates journey to the Presidency.

#### Objectives:

- Understand the Electoral College Process
- Identify influences of the media in forming public opinion
- Explore sources of campaign funding and the purpose of polling
- Explore the overall complex Presidential election process

Gr. 4 &amp; 5

### Moving Away From Personalities & Toward Policy Driven Debate

#### VOTING AGE and the RIGHT to VOTE

Students will discuss voting rights in the USA and how their opinions may align with policies. By focusing on the voting age, students will research and debate lowering the voting age using the Seeds of Civility.

#### Objectives:

- Understand debating with civility versus arguing
- Identify events that led to the right to vote
- Use evidence to support positions
- Debate whether or not the voting age should be lowered in the United States



Gr. K-3

### WHAT is an ELECTION?

Students will discuss the definition of an election and why voting is important using the “Seeds of Civility” as a guideline.

#### Objectives:

- Understand “What is an Election?”
- Read aloud and discuss “[Leo’s First Vote](#)” by Christina Soontornvat
- Understand “Why my vote is important”
- Discuss how the Seeds of Civility are important in an election and everyday

