

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 High School* community, to allow students and staff to apply our “Seeds of Civility” to **1)** engage in a key election issue—immigration, **2)** carefully consider three options for dealing with the issue, weighing benefits and drawbacks and **3)** develop skills to promote a fair exchange of ideas regarding the issues as they relate to the candidates for the Presidential Election 2024.

Lesson 1

GROUNDING in the SEEDS OF CIVILITY

Students will develop and demonstrate essential skills for engaging in productive debates on challenging policy issues.

Objectives:

- Understand the “why”
- Explore the differences between ‘arguing and debating’
- Identify “Seeds of Civility” skills for productive discourse
- Engage in safe topic “debates” to practice skills

Lesson 2

Moving Away From Personalities & Toward Policy Driven Politics

INVESTIGATING POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

Students will identify key issues and how their opinions may align with political ideologies. By focusing on immigration policy, students will research and evaluate different options.

Objectives:

- Understand how one’s opinions may align with political parties
- Identify how their opinions may fall on the political spectrum
- Reflect on how American citizens’ views are generally more similar than different
- Explore potential ideas for immigration reform



Lesson 3

DELIBERATING IMMIGRATION REFORM and the 2024 ELECTION

Students will apply the “Seeds of Civility” to discuss possible solutions to address concerns about the nation’s immigration dilemma and compare their shared values to those of the 2024 presidential candidates.

Objectives:

- Apply the “Seeds of Civility” to debate immigration reform using evidence to support their opinion
- Listen to and respond respectfully to different opinions
- Identify common values/areas of agreement amongst students
- Compare and contrast students’ common values/areas of agreement with immigration reform proposals offered by the Independent, Republican and Democrat parties/presidential candidates.

