

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 Middle School](#) community, to allow students and staff to apply our “Seeds of Civility” to **1)** engage in a key issue case study: gun control, **2)** carefully consider various 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
- Reflect on our use the “Seeds of Civility”
- Engage in safe topic “debates” to practice skills



Moving Away From Personalities & Toward Policy Driven Decisions

Lesson 2

INVESTIGATING PARTY POLICIES on GUN CONTROL

Students will identify important issues related to the upcoming presidential election and how their opinions may align with party policies. By focusing on gun control policy, students will research and evaluate different options.

Objectives:

- Explore various perspectives on gun control debate and reform
- Understand how one’s opinions may align with various political policies
- Develop potential ideas for resolving the party stances on gun control
- Reflect on how American citizen’s views are generally more similar than different

Lesson 3

DELIBERATING GUN CONTROL and the 2024 ELECTION

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

Objectives:

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

