

Politics and Predictions

The election brings choices. Every voter will have the chance to change the future. In this section, you will figure out how events affect people and how the choices voters make this year will affect the future. You will survey people and make predictions based on what you find.

Who will win?

Before you start to survey voters, survey yourself. Complete this chart.

	What I Predict	Why
Who will be selected as President by most voters in my community		
Who would be selected by most voters in my state		
Who would be elected President		

Keep your predictions. Then, when you complete your surveys, look at what you thought and see if your survey changes your predictions.

Research and Report

Set up a survey to find out who's next. Your survey can include your class, your family and other members of the community.

Start with your class. Ask members of the class which candidate they choose and why. Here is a form you can use. This survey is for the Presidential election. You also can take the same kind of survey for state and local elections.

President: Your Choice

Candidate	Why You Choose This Candidate	Why You Do Not Choose This Candidate

Record the results of your survey on a bar graph. Be sure to include any information about undecided voters.

Discussion Points

- What kinds of things affect the person people want to elect as President?
- If you were managing the campaign for the candidate you want to be President, what messages would you want to be sure got to voters who do not want to support him?

Think It Through

Make a news log. Use this time-line to keep track of events you read about in the Newspaper. Predict how each event will affect voters. We included space for ten events. You can expand this time-line by using another piece of paper.

Date	Event	How you predict it will affect voters' choice for President

Compare and Contrast

Take your poll again after several weeks. Survey the same people. Make another bar graph.

Look for changes. Analyze your poll. Figure out whether the events you recorded affected the choices.

Make a prediction. Who will win the election and why?

	What I Predict	Basis for My Prediction
Who will be selected as by most voters in my community		
Who will be selected by most voters in my state		
Who will be elected President		

The prediction you make does not have to match the person you would choose for President. Which of the candidates do you want to be elected? Write five reasons why you want this person to win the election:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Get It Across

Write a summary of what you learned from your surveys. Write it as a report. Include your survey information in graphs and tables. You could turn your report into a briefing for one of the candidates—the one you want to win the election. Send it to that candidate with your recommendations on how to win the election.

Newspaper Connection

Write a newspaper article about what you learned about the voters' preferences.