

In the last Presidential election, students at one school made a great difference. They got people registered to vote. To be able to vote, you need to be 18 years old. You also need to be a registered voter, but it is easy to register. You bring something that shows you live in the community. You can bring a bill, such as your phone bill, or a driver's license to prove that you live there.

Many people do not register to vote. Why don't they register? Some people think that their vote is not important.

The seventh grade class at the school learned about what is called voter apathy. Apathy means not caring. They learned that in their own community there were many people who were not registered to vote. They wanted to change that. They said they would like to vote, but since they were not old enough, they wanted to get other people to vote.

They started a campaign. They would get more people registered to vote. They made a plan to increase voter registration. They decided to begin by getting people in their families registered. Then they would get parents of other students to register.

Their teacher called the Registrar's Office. That is the part of government that gets people registered. The teacher asked if they would send a registrar to the school on the school's open house day. A registrar is a person who registers voters. That way, people could register to vote while they were at the school. The answer was yes. A registrar came.

That day, 172 people registered to vote. The students were proud, but they had more to do. So they went and talked with students in other classes. They asked the students to tell their families how important it was to register to vote.

Then they held another registration day with the help of the Registrar's Office. This time, 102 more people registered to vote. They came to the school again to register. People were getting excited about the election. The students put signs up outside the school the week before the election. Their signs said, "Vote Here. You Choose The Future When You Vote." They took notes home to remind families and neighbors to vote.

After the election, the students were very proud. They could not vote, but they had made sure that more people were registered. They had reminded everyone in the community to vote. They were sure they had made a positive difference.

Identify/Analyze/Infer Cause-Effect Relations – Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question

1. Why did many people not get registered to vote?

- a. They had to walk too far.
- b. They were not old enough.
- c. They did not care.
- d. They did not like politics.

3. What happened because the students got the other students to tell their parents to register?

- a. the other students learned
- b. more parents registered
- c. the school had a meeting
- d. they voted

2. Why did the students want to get people to register?

- a. They wanted to vote themselves.
- b. They liked politics.
- c. It was an election year.
- d. Their teacher told them to.

4. What happened because there were more people registered?

- a. More people voted.
- b. The school closed on election day.
- c. Parent night was successful.
- d. Children learned more.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. What effect do you think this project had on the students?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	c	a	b	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
They learned about elections.