

When I was in 7th grade last year, we had a special project. We were getting people to register to vote. I learned that it was so easy to register. I did not understand why more people did not register. It is a very important part of being an American. We learned in social studies that some countries do not allow people to vote. We learned that, in U.S. history, at times people have not been allowed to vote. Now everyone who is 18 can vote.

Our class decided to do something about this; we would make a change in our community. So we made a plan to get people registered. We started with our own families. The school set up a voter registration day. It was part of the school's open house, a day we knew many people would be there. We made sure our parents were there and got registered. We asked people why they had not registered before, and most people said they did not care much about it. They did not think their vote made a difference. We made up a slogan: "Vote, It's Your Future."

My brother was 18. He was going to high school. I asked him if he was registered, and he said, "Why should I register? I don't think it is important." I told him about our slogan and how, when people elected someone, that person would decide things that could help improve the city. For example, I told him that maybe we could get a community college in the community so he would not have to travel so far to college next year. I asked him to come to the Open House. He said he would do better than that. I did not know what he meant.

My brother surprised me. He called the registrar's office. He was calling to find out where he could register, but he learned more. He found out he could be a volunteer registrar. He would have to go to a training session. Then he would be able to help others get registered. So he went downtown, and he not only registered as a voter; he took the training to be a registrar.

My brother talked with his high school social studies teacher. He said he wanted to help other students get registered. If you are 18, you can register to vote, but many 18-year-olds don't register. It could be that they don't know they can register.

The teacher set up a voter registration table in the lunchroom. My brother sat there every day for a week. When students came in, if they were 18, they could go to register at his table. At the end of the week, 108 students had registered. My brother had done all that himself. We both had made a big difference.

Identify/Analyze/Infer Cause-Effect Relations – Fiction

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 people not register before?

- a. They did not know about it.
- b. They were busy.
- c. They did not think it was important.
- d. They thought it was difficult.

3. What happened because of the 7th grade student project?

- a. Their candidate won.
- b. Elementary students registered.
- c. Teachers registered.
- d. Students learned a lot.

2. Why did the 7th grade class want to get people registered as voters?

- a. So their candidate would win.
- b. Because they cared about citizenship.
- c. So they would get a good grade.
- d. Because they wanted to feel important.

4. What did the brother accomplish?

- a. He got a good social studies grade.
- b. He influenced other students.
- c. He won the election.
- d. He became more popular.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. There are two kinds of effects. One is what happens right away. Another is what lasts—a long-term effect. What do you think will be a lasting effect of the 7th grade project?*

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	b	d	b

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
People will be better citizens.