

Teacher Guide: Workshop Materials Overview

Ballot, Power, and Democracy in New Jersey

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This guide provides an overview of all supplementary worksheets and activities developed for the student workshop. Each material is listed with its target audience, a description of its contents, and the specific NJSL-SS performance expectations it addresses. Teachers may select materials based on student needs and available time.

Material	Audience	Description	NJSL-SS Standards
Gen Ed: Spot the Difference Worksheet	Gen Ed (Gr. 7-12)	Side-by-side comparison of a simplified old-style county line ballot and a new office-block ballot. Students study both layouts and answer 4 guided questions about which design is easier to navigate, which favors certain candidates, and which is more fair. Designed to be used during the presentation.	6.3.8.CivicsPI.1, 6.3.8.CivicsPI.3, 6.3.8.CivicsPD.1, 6.3.8.CivicsPR.5, Practices: Gathering and Evaluating Sources, Developing Claims and Using Evidence
Gen Ed: Reflection Worksheet	Gen Ed (Gr. 7-12)	Three-part post-activity reflection. Part A: students describe their mock election experience and whether ballot design changed their vote. Part B: students analyze the county line's impact on representation (demographic data) and explain why contested elections matter. Part C: students identify an issue they would vote on and explain its personal significance.	6.3.8.CivicsPD.2, 6.3.8.CivicsPD.3, 6.3.8.CivicsHR.1, 6.3.8.CivicsCM.1, Practices: Seeking Diverse Perspectives, Presenting Arguments, Taking Informed Action
Gen Ed: Multiple Choice Worksheet	Gen Ed (Gr. 7-12)	15 multiple-choice questions (4 options each) covering the county line system, statistical evidence, legal timeline, new ballot design, and voter registration. Designed for individual assessment.	6.3.8.CivicsPI.1, 6.3.8.CivicsPI.3, 6.3.8.CivicsDP.1, 6.3.8.CivicsPR.7, 6.3.12.HistorySE.1
Gen Ed: Voter Education Campaign Project	Gen Ed (Gr. 7-12)	Students choose a format (social media, flyer, video script, or op-ed) to create a voter education campaign. Includes planning space and a grading rubric. Requires research, visual design, and a call to action.	6.3.8.CivicsPD.2, 6.3.8.CivicsPD.3, 6.3.8.CivicsCM.1, 6.3.12.CivicsPD.1, Practices: Presenting Arguments, Taking Informed Action
Gen Ed: The Power Game (Group Activity)	Gen Ed (Gr. 7-12)	Role-play simulation in groups of 5-6. Round 1: one student is County Chair who picks candidates for the line. Round 2: all candidates compete equally. Includes candidate cards, results sheet, and reflection questions.	6.3.8.CivicsPI.4, 6.3.8.CivicsPD.1, 6.3.8.CivicsPR.5, 6.3.8.CivicsHR.1, Practices: Seeking Diverse Perspectives, Engaging in Civil Discourse
Gen Ed: Economics Worksheet	Gen Ed (Gr. 7-12)	Two-part worksheet. Part A: campaign spending data analysis using ELEC figures (\$259M total). Part B: opportunity cost analysis of campaign spending and the county line system. Requires mathematical reasoning and position-taking.	6.3.8.EconET.1, 6.3.8.EconET.2, 6.3.12.EconGE.1, Practices: Gathering and Evaluating Sources, Developing Claims
SPED: Fill in the Blank	SPED (All grades)	9 fill-in-the-blank sentences with a 9-word bank. Large font (14pt), clear visual layout. Covers key vocabulary: ballot, primary, county line, office-block, vote, register, candidates, party leaders, fair. Designed for students with reading or intellectual disabilities.	6.3.8.CivicsPI.1, 6.3.8.CivicsPD.3, 6.3.8.CivicsPR.5, Practices: Developing Claims and Using Evidence

SPED: Multiple Choice (3 Options)	SPED (All grades)	10 questions with 3 answer choices each. Large font (14pt+), simplified language, clear spacing. Covers ballot basics, the county line, the new system, voter eligibility, and the importance of voting.	6.3.8.CivicsPI.1, 6.3.8.CivicsPD.1, 6.3.8.CivicsCM.1
SPED: My Fair Ballot Project	SPED (All grades)	Step-by-step guided project. Students create their own fair ballot for a school election using poster paper. 4 clear steps with visual checklist. Suitable for students with intellectual, behavioral, and reading disabilities. Can be completed individually or with a partner.	6.3.8.CivicsPR.5, 6.3.8.CivicsPD.2, 6.3.8.CivicsCM.1, Practices: Taking Informed Action, Presenting Arguments
ESL: Vocabulary and Sentences	ESL (All ages)	Three-part activity. Part A: vocabulary matching (6 terms with bilingual English/Spanish labels). Part B: sentence completion with word bank. Part C: true/false on voter rights. Large font, simple language, designed for English language learners at all proficiency levels.	6.3.8.CivicsPI.1, 6.3.8.CivicsCM.1, 6.3.8.CivicsPR.5

Implementation Notes

Gen Ed materials are designed for general education students in grades 7 through 12 and assume grade-level reading ability. The multiple choice worksheet can serve as a pre/post assessment. The Power Game group activity requires 25 to 30 minutes and works best in groups of 5 to 6. The project is intended as a multi-day assignment.

SPED materials use larger fonts (14pt+), simplified language, and step-by-step instructions. The fill-in-the-blank and multiple choice worksheets can be completed independently or with support. The interactive project is designed to be accessible for students with intellectual disabilities (clear steps, visual checklist), behavioral disabilities (structured, short tasks), and reading disabilities (large font, minimal text per step). All SPED materials are formatted for accessibility settings.

ESL materials use bilingual labels (English/Spanish), simplified sentence structures, and visual matching exercises. These can be used in adult education, community programs, or ESL classrooms at any level.

The Economics Worksheet is an optional supplement aligned to the economics strand of the NJSLS-SS. It can be used independently or paired with the Economics Supplement Slides (separate PPTX file).

**Materials are available in alternative file formats upon request. For format requests, accessibility accommodations, or questions about workshop content, please contact programming@agardresearchassociates.org or accessibility@agardresearchassociates.org.*