

MINI-LESSON: CAST YOUR BALLOT

*Alice at a
Glance
Curriculum
Packet*



**ALICE PAUL
INSTITUTE**

Education. Empowerment. Equality.

Mini-Lesson: Cast Your Ballot

Grades: 6-12

Duration: 10-15 minutes

OBJECTIVE:

This activity will activate students' prior knowledge about voting rights and women's rights. Students will have a chance to personally experience the injustice of being denied their right to vote.

STANDARDS:

State standards may include the following strands/topics:

Active Citizenship in the 21st Century; Civics, Government, and Human Rights

PROCEDURE:

In the beginning of class, present students with a scenario: the school district administration is making changes to the school budget and is considering cutting all after-school activities. (Or consider choosing another scenario that is appropriate for your class.) However, before making a decision, the school district wants to hear student opinion...but they have decided they only care about hearing half of the student population's thoughts.

Randomly count off each student in class, dividing the class into half. Ask one half to vote silently or anonymously. Tally up their votes and announce the class's decision.

When the students object to the fairness of the vote, ask them why they found it unfair that only half of the class's opinion was taken into consideration. Does it make sense to deny someone their right to voice their opinion through voting?

Introduce the idea that, for quite some time, approximately half of the U.S. population was denied voting rights. (And for some time before that, over half of the U.S. population was

denied.) Remind students that when the country was first founded, only white, property-owning males could vote. It was not until 1920 that women's right to vote was recognized.

Explain to students that the following presentation, *Alice at a Glance*, will give them a look into the lives of some of the women who fought for their rights so that both men and women could have their say in the nation's government.

After the presentation, follow up with an additional lesson from *Alice at a Glance* curriculum.

NOTES & ASSESSMENT:

Modifications or notes to remember when using this lesson again: