



Thinking Space CIC
think better together

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How to be a good leader (and a good loser)

Assembly Stimulus

Intro to UK Democracy

Video from UK Parliament: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZN0qP0vRqVE>

The US Election

On Tuesday 3rd November 2020 America had a big election. There were two people that US voters could choose from to be the next president of their country - current president, Donald Trump representing the Republican party and Joe Biden who represents the Democrats.

Trump surprised the world when he was elected president in 2016 was hoping to win a second term in office by winning in 2020. But while many millions of people still support him, others have criticised his policies as unfair to poor people, people from neighbouring countries and the environment.

- Paired talk: **What makes someone a good leader?**

Several days later, Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris received enough votes to be announced the winners. Kamala Harris is the first woman and the first person with Black and Asian family heritage to achieve this goal.

When the results were announced, Donald Trump said the vote wasn't fair and went off to play golf. While Biden and Harris gave their victory speeches, Trump refused to admit defeat. Joe Biden described his behaviour as 'an embarrassment'. (Source: Newsround)

- Paired talk: **What makes someone a good loser?**

Supplementary Questions

- Could *you* be a leader?
- What qualities to leaders need?
- Do leaders have to be good people?
- Could someone be too bad to lead?
- Why do we *vote* for leaders?
- Does the best person always get the most votes?
- Can we trust voters to make good choices?
- Should children be able to vote?
- Should *all* adults be able to vote?
- Is a democratic system of voting, a good thing?
- What other ways are there of organising a class or country? How do they compare?
- If you care about winning, is it okay to get angry when you lose?
- Is there a right way (and a wrong way) to lose?
- What makes an election fair?

In-Class Exercises

EYFS Classroom Activity

The people voting in America disagree about how to make things fair. What do we mean by fair?

Enquiry:

Title:	'Teddy Bear's Picnic'
Method:	Story-based enquiry with toys
Content:	Sharing, Fairness, Equality
Materials:	Teddies and cake
Timings:	20 - 30 minutes for a half group

- 1. Preparation** Show teddies and a cake: Ask - *'What do you think is happening here?'*
- 2. Stimulus** Mime the story with toys: Two small teddies are having a picnic. They have brought a cake to share. Just before they begin to eat, they are joined by a bigger teddy. (To extend the story, try introducing a smaller teddy, hungry teddy, mean teddy, poorly teddy etc.)
- 3. Question** Prepared question: *"Can they make it fair?"*
- 4. Dialogue** Mid way though, if the children don't raise the issue, model for the children: *'Big Teddy says he should have more cake because he is bigger'*

Other arguments (that may emerge or that you might want to introduce).
 - *'Small teddy should get less because she is smaller'*
 - *'Hungry teddy should get more because he is hungry'*
 - *'Mean teddy should get none because he is unkind'*
 - *'Poorly teddy should get it all because she is unwell'*
- 5. Reflection** Was our discussion about fairness, fair?

KS1 Classroom Activity

Both Donald Trump and Joe Biden come up with new rules or 'policies' that they hope people will vote for. But what makes a good policy and what kinds of policies would you vote for?

Exercise:

Ask the children to consider which of the following would make good rules and why/why not?.

- Free toys for everyone
- Pupils can be teachers
- Wasting food is banned
- Everyone must play sport
- No one is allowed to be rich
- Dropping litter is a crime
- It's okay to bully bullies
- Children must go to bed early

Enquiry:

You might follow this up with a short dialogue about one of the following questions:

- What makes a good ruler?
- Could we have no ruler at all?
- Can a Ruler make up any rules they like?

KS2 Classroom Activity

Joe Biden received over 5 million more votes than Donald Trump. This makes him *very* popular. But America has a *very* big population and over 150 million people are believed to have voted in the 2020 US election! This means that Joe Biden is actually just a small percentage more popular than Donald Trump and many millions of Trump supporters are feeling upset about the result.

Enquiry:

Talk about one or two of the following questions with the class or compose your own in small groups:

- Is the most popular person, the best person to lead?
- Is a system that disappoints millions of voters still fair?
- Is a system that excludes children from voting fair?
- What about a system that *sometimes* excludes prisoners, immigrants and mentally unwell people?
- We sometimes say ‘America has voted for Biden’ or ‘The UK has voted for Brexit’ even though only *some* of the people voted that way? Should we talk like this?
- Should we always trust democracy? Can democracy ever go wrong?
- Can you think of a better way to appoint a leader?
- If you think democracy is the best system we have, how can we make it better?

Politicians hoping to be elected, often give speeches about what they would do if they got into power.

Examples:

Boris Johnson ‘Get Brexit Done’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVbHjvyEr0E>

Barack Obama ‘Yes we can’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiskE1Jsr6A>

Exercises:

Working independently: Write a speech outlining how you would make things better at school if you were elected school president.

Working in small groups: Explain how a school voting system would work, who would be allowed to vote, who would be allowed to run for school president and what kinds of issues you would have the power to change.

Extension work:

‘Equal Rights for Children’ – by Michelle Sowe

<https://thephilosophyclub.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/children-voting-rights.pdf>

‘The Fairest Teacher of Them All’ – By Jason Buckley

<http://www.jasonbuckley.co.uk/stories>

‘Fairness, Equality and Justice’ – By DialogueWorks

<https://dialogueworks.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Hometalk-week-12.pdf>

‘Votes for time Travellers’ – By Jason Buckley

<http://www.jasonbuckley.co.uk/stories>