

Welcome to the Study Guide for *Vote for Me*. These two videotapes are on the election process in the United States of America. They focus basically on local elections at the city and state levels, plus one at the national level. *Vote for Me* can be enjoyed as both learning opportunities and entertainment. They are outspoken, sometimes quite graphic in nature, and take a look at U.S. politics with typical American humor. There are a variety of activities that can be used both before and after viewing, and, of course, all facilitators are encouraged to add their own, keeping in mind that the purpose of these videos is content; they are not meant to be language lessons.

Included in each study guide will be:

- Learning Objectives
- *Exploring Fundamental Concepts* and *Investigating Parallel Themes* discussion questions for use before viewing to engage viewer involvement and enhance analytical/critical thinking skills
- A brief paragraph introducing individual segments of a longer section
- Vocabulary items including American jargon and political terminology
- A suggested classroom activity
- Song lyrics, if any used in the film would be of particular interest

LISTENING STRATEGIES

It is not expected, nor is it necessary that all vocabulary be familiar to the viewers in order for the content to be understood. The included listing of vocabulary items for each section together with brief explanations and conversational usage given by the facilitator should give the viewers a workable knowledge sufficient for the films.

Class discussion of the suggested content questions, which are of a general nature and can be analyzed across cultures, will involve the viewers in open dialogue and provide a preview of what to expect in the video. Facilitators might wish to add other content questions more specific to their learning environment.

On page 3 of this section you will find a KWL chart that has been added as another pre-viewing activity. The chart will provide worthwhile background and preparation for the films. The KWL chart consists of three fill-in columns labeled What I **K**now, What I **W**ant to Know, and What I Have **L**earned. They are to be completed as a brainstorming activity. The first two columns are to be completed before the viewing and the third after the viewing. The columns allow the viewers to become involved with their own learning and give them the opportunity to contribute freely because for the first two columns there are no right-or-wrong answers.

Lyrics to two of the songs are included and can be used at the facilitator's discretion. *Friendship* is an amusing song with a humorous corruption of some words. Perhaps some of your viewers could add verses of their own. *America the Beautiful* gives an in-depth sense of what it means to be an American.

“Introduction” - song lyrics

“Friendship” – Cole Porter

“America the Beautiful” – Katherine Lee Bates (1913)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR THE INTRODUCTION

INSIGHT = Gaining depth and scope of understanding through discussion of *Exploring Fundamental Concepts* and *Investigating Parallel Themes* as listed below

CONTRIBUTING INFORMATION = Learning how to play the political “game,” the roles of strategy, money, and tenacity

BACKGROUND INFORMATION = The degree of personal involvement of both politicians and voters in the electoral process

PRE-VIEWING QUESTIONS TO ENHANCE ANALYTICAL/CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

EXPLORING FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS

<i>IN YOUR COUNTRY -</i>	<i>IN YOUR COUNTRY -</i>
What is meant by “Community?”	What is meant by “Ego?”

INVESTIGATING PARALLEL THEMES

1. How does community differ from family?	1. How much is individual ego valued?
2. How strong is the concept of community in relation to the concept of family?	2. Does a politician need to overcome his/her ego? Why or why not?
3. What is meant by “grass roots politics?”	3. How is individual power maintained?
4. Does your country practice grass roots politics? Why or why not?	4. How do ego and power inter-relate?

¹ The format used throughout this study guide is adapted from Jay McTighe and Grant Wiggins, *The Understanding by Design Handbook* (Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 1999)

VOCABULARY ITEMS

- Grass roots politics: politics at the most local level; town meetings, city and county offices, direct involvement by the people
- Hook: something unusual that attracts immediate attention
- Jaded: bored; no longer interested in something because it is too familiar
- Precinct: the smallest electoral district in a city or town
- Psychopathic: a usually negative term for somebody with a personality disorder
- Pundit: somebody who is looked on as an expert in a particular field, usually politics
- Rolodex: a trademark for a desktop card-index system, small cards hold information on individual people including their addresses, telephone numbers, and often personal date such as birthdays, etc. *Mental Rolodex*: all such information committed to memory

KWL CHART

- K** = What I Know about elections in the United States (These “facts” do not have to be true. It is to the viewer’s advantage to discover his/her own errors.)
- W** = What I Want to know about elections in the United States
- L** = What I Have Learned about this subject. This column is to be completed after the viewing of the film.

Draw the chart on the board and encourage the group to brainstorm the first column. List a couple of identifying words, or short phrase in the column. Limit the list to 10 or so entries. Then complete the second column using the same procedure.

When the **K** and **W** lists are complete, show the film. The viewers will be listening actively for both general content and for “facts” to discover the accuracy of their entries and then will cooperate to fill in the third column, What I Have **L**earned, after the viewing. The results can be used for group discussions and/or for reports, either written or oral.

K	W	L
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.

SONG LYRICS

FRIENDSHIP - Cole Porter

If you're ever in a jam, here I am
If you're ever in a mess, S-O-S
If you ever feel so happy, you land in jail; I'm your bail,
It's friendship, friendship, just a perfect blendship,
When other friendships have been forgot,
Ours will still be hot.
Lah-die-ah-die-ah-die dig, dig, dig

If you're ever up a tree, phone to me.
If you're ever down a well, ring my bell.
If you ever lose your teeth, and you're out to dine; borrow mine.
It's friendship, friendship, just a perfect blendship.
When other friendship have been forgate,
Ours will still be great.
Lah-die-ah-die-ah-die, chuck, chuck, chuck.

If they ever black your eyes, put me wise.
If they ever cook your goose, turn me loose.
If they ever put a bullet through your brain; I'll complain.
It's friendship, friendship, just a perfect blendship.
When other friendships have been forgit,
Ours will still be it.
Lah-die-ah-die-ah-die, hep, hep, hep.

(Note: The lyrics in the film vary slightly from the ones printed here.)

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL - Katherine Lee Bates (1913)

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self the country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!