



Practice What You Preach

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Social Studies
Grades 9–12



Introduction

Elections and voting rights are paramount to our country's history. This is especially true in presidential election years. In this lesson, students will have the opportunity to compare and contrast the views, promises, and goals of past presidents and compare them to what actually occurred when those presidents were in office.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.1](#)) Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.
- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.4](#)) Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social science.
- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.9](#)) Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

Materials Needed

- Access to Internet/WiFi for research
- [List of Past Presidents \(with political party and year inaugurated\)](#)
- An example of the completed assignment to use for modelling
- [Venn Diagram](#)

Procedure

1. Prior to this lesson, you will need to have an example of the completed assignment to use for a model for students.
2. As an opener, play a [clip of a presidential candidate speech](#) from a former president. Discuss with the students that prior to the presidential election, candidates travel on tours to promote their views on politics, their goals for the country, and their promises for change. Also share that many times it is easier said than done when candidates actually become president.

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- Using your prepared model that shows a comparison and contrast between what was promised as a presidential candidate to what was actually performed as president, continue the discussion about how political promises are sometimes easier said than done. Your example should be a Venn Diagram that shows the contrast/comparison of what the president promised or promoted as a candidate and what the president actually did or promoted when in office.
- Provide the List of Past Presidents (with political party and year inaugurated) and have the students choose a president that they would like to research.
- Explain to the students that they are to research the president's campaign as well as what was accomplished during the term(s) of presidency.
- Once the students have researched these things, they are to complete a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the presidential campaign promises to the presidential performance when in office.

Evaluation

As an evaluation for this lesson, have the students respond to one of the following journal prompts (3-5 paragraphs):

- Why do you think many presidents are not able to keep the promises they made while campaigning?
- If you were running for presidency or a similar position in leadership, how would you work to make sure that you accomplished the things that you promised when campaigning.