## Middle Childhood Education Lesson Plan Template v. 2

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Lesson Title: Voting Restrictions in a "Democratic" United States

Grade Level: 8th Grade

## **Lesson Foundations**

ONLS 8.16: Cultural biases, stereotypes and prejudices had social, political and economic consequences for minority groups and the population as a whole.
CCSS 6-8.6: Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).
LO 1: <b>Students will</b> interpret a sample literacy test from the Reconstruction Era to determine prejudices of policymakers at that time.
LO 2: <b>Students will</b> compare the disenfranchisement of marginalized citizens after the introduction of the 15 <sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment to current voter registration policies.
Students:
Have knowledge of events leading up to the 15th Amendment (Civil War, Reconstruction, etc.) Have knowledge of 15th Amendment
"Buying American Elections" by Leticia Wiggins and Patrick Potyondy  http://origins.osu.edu/historytalk/buying-american-elections  Sample literacy tests (1 per student)  PowToon slideshow https://www.powtoon.com/online-presentation/cOJnSUPfb6x/ss-methods-micro-teach/  "Mrs. Guilford" video <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBVjp_Z773Y">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBVjp_Z773Y</a> Venn Diagram (1 per student)  Exit tweet template (1 per student)

# **Assessments**

Description of assessment	Modifications and accommodation to the	Evaluation Criteria - What evidence of student learning
	assessment so that all students can demonstrate	(identify learning objective(s) being assessed) does the
	their learning.	assessment provide?
A1: Check for Understanding	Allow additional processing time for students when	LO #1 Students will discuss current voting restrictions and
	answering in front of whole class. Walk around and	why they think they may be put into place (i.e. racial
	speak to small groups of students during think-pair-	prejudices, policymakers own personal gain)
	share so not every group has to share aloud.	
A2: Literacy Test	Read questions aloud to struggling readers and ESL	LO #1 As students complete the literacy test, they will
	students.	identify phrases and other details that complicate the
		tasks, thus highlighting possible biases by the test creator.
A3: Venn Diagram	Model filling out the Venn diagram for struggling	LO #1 Students will compare past and current voting
	readers.	restrictions (Policymakers in the Reconstruction Era used
	Having an electronic version that students can type	their influence to restrict African-Americans out of
	out for struggling writers and ESL students.	elections through "literacy tests," which is comparable to
		lobbyists and SuperPACs influencing elections today)
A4: Exit Tweet	Allow ESL students and struggling writers to type	LO #1 For their exit tweet students will state something
	out or verbally give answer for exit tweet.	they learned about voting restrictions (i.e. voting
	Sentence starters for struggling students.	restrictions are still being used today they have just taken
		on a new form, voting restrictions are inherently biased)

# **Instructional Procedures/Steps**

	Include instructional practices, questions you will ask, checks for understanding, differentiation, evidence of culturally responsive teaching	
	practices	Student-centered learning/Opportunities for Practice and Apply
Opening	1) Review agenda for the day	
10 Minutes	2) Introduce LO's	
	3) Show video (A1)(LO1)	3) Following the video, students will do a Think-Pair-Share
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?	about their reaction. Discuss whether or not students were
	v=WBVjp_Z773Y	surprised, what surprised them. Bring up racial prejudices,
	Were you surprised by the video? What	policymakers with the power to forward personal agendas
	surprised you the most? Why do you think these	with influence (money).
	restrictions are in place? Is this constitutional?	
	Why is it happening?	

## Instruction Distribute Literacy test (LO1) Mini-lecture of original purpose of literacy test: minutes to attempt the test. \_35\_\_\_\_ Minutes literacy tests were designed to force prospective Procedures and steps to the voters to prove their literacy (ability to read). lesson. White illiterate voters however, were allowed to vote due to the "grandfather clause" which allowed illiterate men to vote if their ancestors had the right to vote prior to the Civil War. Therefore this test was primarily used to deter minority races from voting. 2) Go over literacy test (A2)(L01); as we grade, we will reflect and discuss aspects of the test that may reveal 2) biases. Are the tasks themselves difficult? What makes the test challenging? Why would policymakers require something like this in order to vote? Does this accurately test a person's literacy? Why or why not? Should all voters be "smart" enough to pass this test? What does this test reveal about bias? Distribute Venn diagram (A3)(LO2). What aspects of elections were unique to the Reconstruction Era? [3] What aspects are unique to current elections? What are some similarities? What could be considered today's "literacy tests?" according to the Constitution.

4) Lead group discussion about Venn diagram, fill one 4) out on projector/ELMO/board (LO2). Ask students to share what they wrote down, mention some things that may have been brought up while students were working.

1) After listening to the lecture, students will have five

- Students will highlight/circle phrases that they found difficult to interpret, contribute to class discussion. Redundant phrasing, irrelevant tasks, note the length of the test vs. the time allotted. Does not accurately assess literacy. Designed to be difficult, prevent people from voting. Biased against non-white voters.
- Students will have ten minutes to work in partners to complete the Venn diagram, using notes from class and information from the podcast. Both sides attempt to control the outcomes of elections; Reconstruction required voters to be "literate," Current lobbyists fund politicians with common personal and political agendas. Both sides restrict those who are allowed to vote
- Students will use the notes from their Venn diagram to contribute to class discussion. Reference Venn diagram, podcast, previous knowledge of Reconstruction era to highlight some similarities and differences between the past and present issues (i.e. voter identification).

Closure	1) Debrief on day's lesson	1) Students will discuss the future of voting restrictions.
5 Minutes	Do you think voting restrictions are fair or reflect democratic principals? Will there ever be a time where our country will not enforce them? What would have to be done to eliminate the inherent bias of voting restrictions?	2) Students will share something they learned:  (i.e. voting restrictions are still being used today they

Materials:

#### The State of Louisiana

Literacy Test (This test is to be given to anyone who cannot prove a fifth grade education.)

Do what you are told to do in each statement, nothing more, nothing less. Be careful as one wrong answer denotes failure of the test. You have 10 minutes to complete the test.

- 1. Draw a line around the number or letter of this sentence.
- 2. Draw a line under the last word in this line.
- 3. Cross out the longest word in this line.
- 4. Draw a line around the shortest word in this line.
- 5. Circle the first, first letter of the alphabet in this line.
- 6. In the space below draw three circles, one inside (engulfed by) the other.
- 7. Above the letter X make a small cross.
- 8. Draw a line through the letter below that comes earliest in the alphabet.

### ZVSBDMKITPHC

9. Draw a line through the two letters below that come last in the alphabet.

#### ZVBDMKTPHSYC

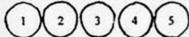
10. In the first circle below write the last letter of the first word beginning with "L".



11. Cross out the number necessary, when making the number below one million.

#### 10000000000

12. Draw a line from circle 2 to circle 5 that will pass below circle 2 and above circle 4.



13. In the line below cross out each number that is more than 20 but less than 30.

31 16 48 29 53 47 22 37 98 26 20 25

14.	Draw a line under	the first letter after "h"	and draw a	line through the seco	nd letter
200	· uim				

## abcde fghijklmnopq

- 15. In the space below, write the word "noise" backwards and place a dot over what would be its second letter should it have been written forward.
- 16. Draw a triangle with a blackened circle that overlaps only its left corner.
- Look at the line of numbers below, and place on the blank, the number that should come next.

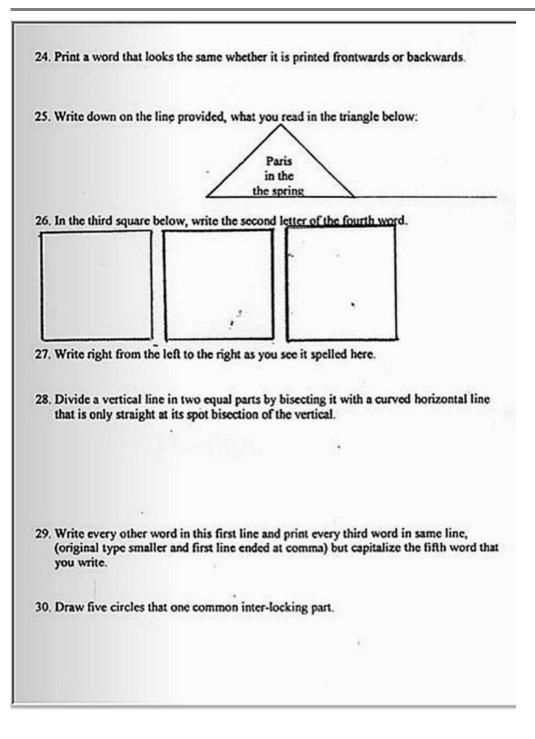
2 4 8 16 \_\_\_

18. Look at the line of numbers below, and place on the blank, the number that should come next.

3 6 9 \_\_\_ 15

- 19. Draw in the space below, a square with a triangle in it, and within that same triangle draw a circle with a black dot in it.
- 20. Spell backwards, forwards.
- 21. Print the word vote upside down, but in the correct order.
- 22. Place a cross over the tenth letter in this line, a line under the first space in this sentence, and circle around the last the in the second line of this sentence.
- 23. Draw a figure that is square in shape. Divide it in half by drawing a straight line from its northeast corner to its southwest corner, and then divide it once more by drawing a broken line from the middle of its western side to the middle of its eastern side.





Name : \_\_\_\_\_\_ Venn Diagram

