Political Process Vocabulary

Chapter 10

• Who can vote?
• Who is most likely to vote?
• How does your vote impact an election?
Ballot

• The list of candidates on which you can cast your vote.

• Today, most voting ballots are electronic. Many others, like this one, are write in ballots, where you color in the bubble beside the person you want.
Absentee Ballot

- Citizens who cannot go to the polls on election day mark an **absentee ballot** and mail it to their local election board.

- People may use **absentee ballots** if they are away with the armed forces.
Electorate

• All people who are eligible to vote.

• In order to vote in Virginia, you must be
  – 18
  – A resident of VA
  – A citizen of the USA
Apathy

- A lack of interest
- One of the main reasons voter turnout is poor is due to *apathy*, a lack of interest in who gets elected.
Electoral College

- A group of people chosen by popular vote to select the president and vice president.
- The electors who make up the electoral college are appointed from 50 different states.
• People appointed to vote as a part of the electoral college in presidential elections.
• Electors vote according to the popular vote in most states.
Winner-Take-All System

- A system in which the candidate who wins the popular vote in a state usually receives all of the state’s electoral votes.
- There are 538 total electoral votes.

A Presidential Candidate needs 270 to win.
Primary Election

- Primary Elections help narrow the field of candidates in Presidential elections as a part of the election process.
- In 2008, both John McCain and Barack Obama won the primary election for their political party.

2008 Presidential Primaries and Caucuses
General Election

- In the general election, voters choose candidates for various offices.

- This year’s general election will be on November 3 and it will include a choice for a new Governor for Virginia.
Soft Money

* Donations given to political parties and not designated for a particular candidate’s election campaign.

* The Republican Party had a fund raiser dinner to raise enough soft money to pay for the “Get Out and Vote” signs that will go along the highway in Northern Virginia.
Political Action Committees

- A political organization established by a corporation, labor union or other special interest group designed to support candidates by contributing money.

- The VEA is a PAC that supports candidates that create plans that emphasize education.
Incumbent

- The current holder of an elected office.
- President Obama will be the incumbent for the 2012 election.
- President GW Bush was the incumbent for the 2004 election.
- The selection of a person or persons for office by voting.

- The high school students held an election to see who would be the best person for the Junior class officers.
• Favorable to progress or reform

Liberal people tend to favor ideas that leave room for more out of the box, non-traditional ideas.
• Disposed to preserve existing conditions

• Conservative people tend to like traditional ideas of keeping things as simple and colonial as possible.
FACT AND OPINION

- Something that actually exist and can be proven to be true or real.

- The colors on the US Flag are red, white and blue.

- A personal view or attitude about an event or Idea.

- America has the best choice of colors for its flag. Red, white and blue really compliment each other.
Propaganda

• To spread certain ideas that may involve misleading messages designed to manipulate the audience.

• We use SIDE to decipher the intent of propaganda.