

# 5

## Plan and Participate in an Election

### TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will plan and participate in a class election.

### RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

It is important for young people to understand the election process and why they should exercise their right to vote

## INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

### ❑ STEP 1: Update Journal

I will vote when . . .

### ❑ STEP 2: Convene Roundtable

"Before I vote for someone, I want to know \_\_\_\_\_."

### ❑ STEP 3: Advance Organizer

"Today you will learn about the election process and how to get involved in a campaign."

### ❑ STEP 4: Activity - 15 Minutes

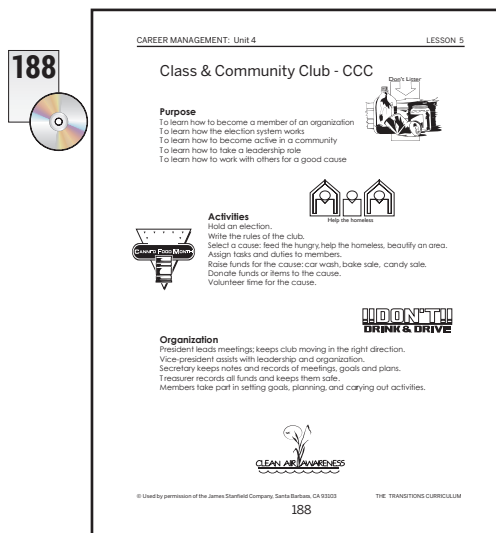
Tell the students the class is going to form a **Class & Community Club (CCC)**. Go over the handout **Class & Community Club**, to explain the details. As you explain the club, motivate students to see the positive potential for the club.

Have students recall the last presidential, local or school election. Ask students to describe what they remember about the election. Ask students what they thought about how the candidates tried to convince the public to vote for them. Ask students to recall TV commercials, radio ads, newspaper ads, billboards or signs about the election. What did the candidates say they would do during the campaign? Ask students to define the word "mudslinging." Discuss the negative side of political campaigns, including propaganda, gossip and character attacks. Ask students how they can discover the truth about a person who is running for office.

### ❑ STEP 5: Activity - 35 Minutes

Explain to the group that they now will go through an election process to elect a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer for the **Class & Community Club**. Tell the class that this will be a two-party election and divide the class in half. Have students follow directions from the handout **Plan Your Campaign**. Have them name their party and nominate candidates for each of the positions, develop platforms and create a campaign strategy. Explain to the students that the platform is what they will promise to do if elected and the campaign strategy is how they will convince the voters that they are the best candidate for the job.

Because everyone in the class will be involved with the election, the candidates need to obtain their votes from an additional source. Find another class that would be willing to



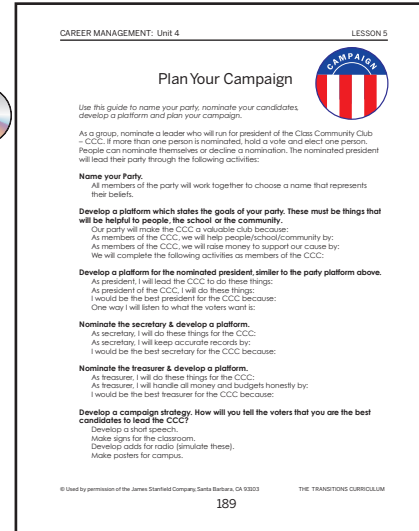
have signs hung in the room and listen to the campaign speeches. On Election Day, have this class vote to simulate a fair election.

### ❑ STEP 6: Evaluate Outcomes

The most important part of an election is  
 “\_\_\_\_\_”

### ❑ STEP 7: Connecting Activity

Have students contact a local community organization to find out how its officers or board is elected.



## KEY WORDS

citizen  
nomination  
volunteer  
club

poll  
candidate  
donation  
organization

president  
charity  
vote  
election

community  
platform  
gossip  
voter registration

mudslinging  
propaganda  
majority  
campaign

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handouts: **Class & Community Club**, page 188; **Plan Your Campaign**, page 189.
- Prepare to explain the election activity.
- Spend more than one day to develop the “political parties” and complete the nomination and campaign planning process.

## SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Writing, Listening, Speaking
- Thinking Skills: Creative Thinking, Visualizing
- Personal Qualities: Responsibility, Self-Management, Integrity/Honesty