

VOTE for Effie

Contents

Manifesto

10 facts about elections and voting

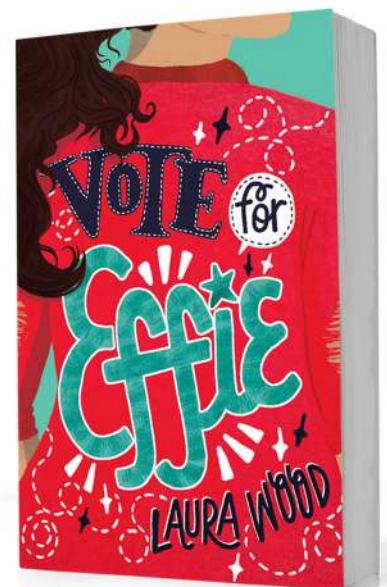
Create your own campaign materials

- Poster
- Leaflet

Hold a debate and election in class

Create a zine

Curriculum links



SCHOLASTIC

VOTE for Effie

Manifesto

A manifesto is a published declaration of a party's intentions.

Read Effie's manifesto below.

My fellow future-presidents,

It can be overwhelming to think about running a political campaign - I know it was for me at first. There are so many problems that you want to tackle RIGHT AWAY and it's difficult to know where to start. That's why my genius pal Angelika suggested we focus on three or four issues - places where we felt we could really make a difference - and these became our MANIFESTO.

These four things became my campaign promises, things that I vowed to do if I was elected. Some of these might be issues that you want to tackle as well, or there might be completely different problems that affect you, your school, or your community. The important thing is that they are things you feel PASSIONATE about. For example, my political rival and arch-nemesis, Aaron Davis, seems to be pretty passionate about pizza, but we can't all be future world leaders of tomorrow I suppose.

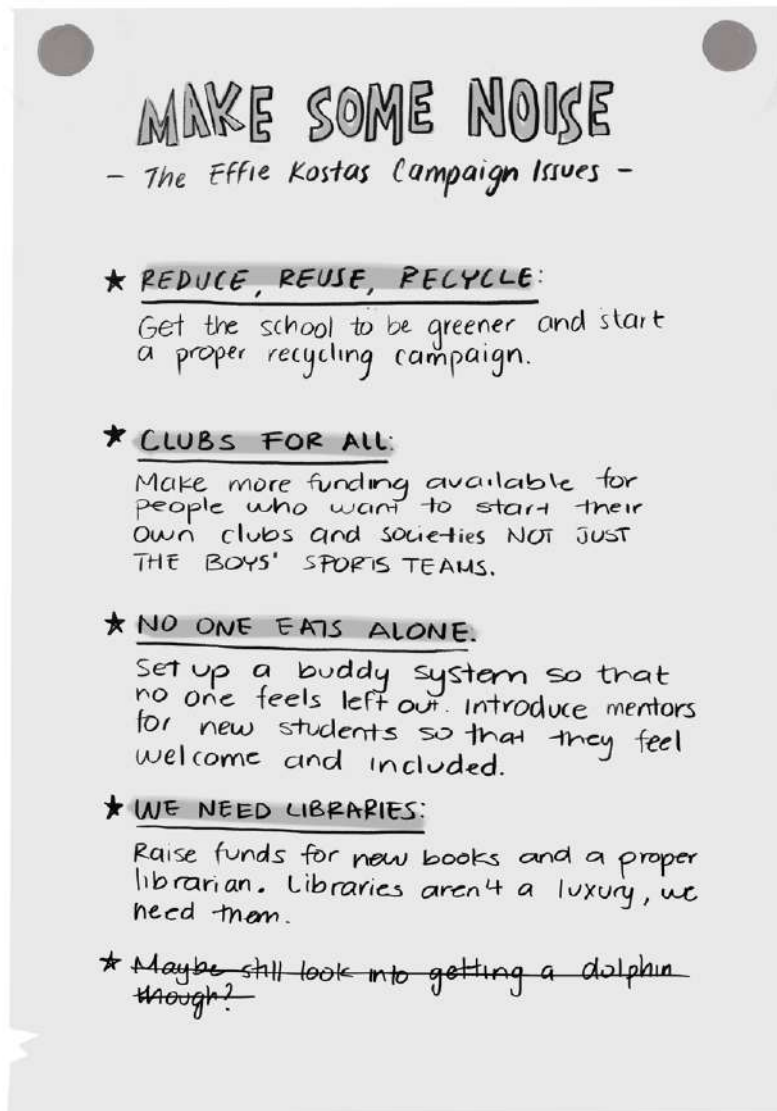
GOOD LUCK and GO OUT THERE AND MAKE SOME NOISE!

Effie xxx



VOTE for Effie

Why not write a manifesto yourself? This is a great place to start, as you can write this on your own, you don't have to be a member of a party.



Your policies need to be typed up, and presented attractively. Make a copy for every member of your class. Why not start thinking of a slogan as well?



VOTE for Effie

10 facts about elections and voting

1. Today most countries are run as democracies, a system of government whereby the people of a country choose their rulers by voting for them. 'Democracy' was invented over 2400 years ago by the people of Athens in Ancient Greece.
2. Back then, the Athenians practiced a form of 'Direct Democracy'. Direct Democracy is when the people have a say over every law that is passed. The Athenians would vote on issues by either a show of hands or by throwing coloured stones into a large clay pot, white for yes and black for no.
3. Nowadays we practice a form of 'Representative Democracy'. Rather than voting on every decision, we vote for representatives to make important decisions for us about how the country is run.
4. The UK is divided into 650 areas that are called constituencies. Each constituency has a Member of Parliament, known as an MP, represent them in the House of Commons. A General Election is when people all over the country vote on who they want their local MP to be.
5. Whereas the Athenians voted by a show of hands or coloured rocks, we use voting cards. We mark an X in the box against the name of the person we wish to represent us and put it in a ballot box at our local polling station where they await counting.
6. If there is a tie for first place in a constituency the result is decided by drawing lots! There aren't any rules for how the lots are drawn so it could be decided by a coin toss, drawing straws or a different method they decide on.
7. Most MPs belong to political parties. In a General Election, if a political party wins 326 seats in the House of Commons then they have won an overall majority. 326 is half of the number of constituencies, plus 1! The winning party's leader becomes prime minister.
8. In the UK General Elections are held on Thursdays. The last general election not to be held on a Thursday was on Tuesday, October 27th, 1931. There is no real reason why elections are held on a Thursday, it's just tradition!
9. British women were only allowed to vote for the first time in 1918 and even then it wasn't all of them. They had to be over the age of 30 and own property, or be married to someone who owned property. It wasn't until 10 years later in 1928 that they received the same voting rights as men.
10. All around the world countries have different ways of casting their vote. For example, in Gambia citizens cast their vote by rolling marbles down a chute over a sealed drum that represents their chosen candidate. The marble hits a bell inside the drum to make a noise whenever a vote is placed.



VOTE for Effie

Create your own campaign materials

As well as your manifesto, you might want to produce other campaign materials to start gaining support for your party. These materials will need to make it clear who you are, and what you are campaigning for. Use similar colours for them all, so that your materials match.



Poster

Can you create your own campaign poster? Think about the main message of your party, and make sure it stands out against all the other posters you might see every day. You can use the space below, or you might one to use a bigger sheet of paper.

Leaflet

Your leaflet might include a main message, like on the poster. You could create a two-sided leaflet, so you can go into more detail about the party's policies on the back. Have a think about what other materials you could create for your campaign, such as stickers or badges.

Are there any new, unusual materials you can think of?





Draw your leaflet in the space below

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for a child to draw a leaflet inside.

VOTE for Effie

Hold a debate and election in class



Now that you have formed your party, decided on policies and created your campaign materials, it's time to debate!

In debates, the opposing parties present their arguments for or against a particular rule, or their stance on certain issues.

Important things to remember:

- Rules are very important for debates, such as starting with a motion – for example, Effie wants to “get the school to be greener and start a proper recycling campaign”
- It is important that everybody knows exactly what is being debated
- Debates work best when there are two clear sides either in favour, or against, the motion
- Decide who is to chair the debate
- The chair must be ready to control the debaters
- It is helpful to have one or two main speakers for each side of the motion
- Speakers can have cue cards to help them remember important points and arguments
- People speaking against the motion may ask for their comments or amendments to be written down and recorded
- The last person to speak should be one of the main speakers for the motion.



VOTE for Effie

Hold a debate and election in class

After your debate, reflect on what went well and what didn't.
What did your party do well, and what did the other party do well?

Do you think you would approach anything differently next time you have a debate?

Once you have debated various issues, it's time to have an election.

Around the world, there are different ways in which elections are held. In the UK, the public votes by marking an X in the box by the name of the candidate or party they wish to represent them. They then place their voting card in a ballot box, so it is anonymous. The votes are later counted and totalled.

Can you think of other ways in which votes are held? Every day in class, your teacher may ask for opinions through a show of hands. In Ancient Greece people used coloured rocks to cast votes. Why do you think it is important that the vote in the UK General Elections are anonymous?



VOTE for Effie

Create a zine



Groups of people united by a political or social cause may create a zine as a way to explain the different aspects of their views and their activism. A zine is a magazine about a particular subject, usually written by people who are not professional journalists, rather people who are interested in that particular subject. Zines can be the work of an individual, or a whole group of people, and are often printed in small numbers before being distributed to specific audience.

Why not have a go at creating your own zine? Think about the following aspects:

- What cause unites your group? Is it animal welfare, or maybe the environment? This might help you to choose a title for your zine.
- Who would you want to read your zine?
- What kind of topics would you cover in the zine? Think about magazines you read, and what kind of content these include. There might be interviews, opinion pieces, and articles, but remember this is your zine, so it can include anything you want it to – there are no rules you need to stick to!



VOTE for Effie

Curriculum links

Upper KS2 English

SPOKEN LANGUAGE:

- Maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments
- Speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English
- Participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates
- Select and use appropriate registers for effective communication

READING:

Comprehension

- Maintain positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read.
- Participate in discussions about books that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, building on their own and others' ideas and challenging views courteously

WRITING:

Planning

- Identify audience and purpose, selecting appropriate form and use other similar writing as model
- Noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary

Drafting and writing

- Selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning
- Using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader [for example, headings, bullet points, underlining]

EVALUATING AND EDITING:

- Proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors
- Perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation, volume, and movement so that meaning is clear

KS2 PSHE

(from the PSHE Association Programme of Study)

- R11. To work collaboratively towards shared goals
- L2. Why and how rules and laws that protect them and others are made and enforced, why different rules are needed in different situations and how to take part in making and changing rules
- L9. What being part of a community means, and about the varied institutions that support communities locally and nationally

MAKE
SOME
NOISE

BIG HAIR
SHOWS
SHE CARES

EFFIE
4
PRESIDENT

SCHOLASTIC

