

Title of Session: LOC Learning Page Chat - Elections

Moderator: Leni Donlan

Title of File: 20041021locelections

Date: October 21, 2004

Room: After School Online Room

LeniD: Hello Daniel

DanielO: Hi

DanielO: Is this for the LOC event

DanielO: ?

MichaelH: yes it is

DanielO: cool.

LeniD: Are you a teacher, Daniel?

MichaelH: Leni, BJ, and I were just chatting for a bit about past sessions

DanielO: Yeah. I'm in Boston.

LeniD: What do you teach?

DanielO: US History, Law and Justice, International Relations

LeniD: Ahh...this is a good chat for you, then!

MichaelH: you've got a great US History topic, tonight, Leni

LeniD: Why don't we get started?

MichaelH: Leni, sounds good

DanielO: ok

MichaelH: I'll introduce....

MichaelH: Hello, everyone,

MichaelH: Welcome to tonight's Learning Page Chat

MichaelH: Leni has a great session which is really pertinent with the upcoming vote on November 2

MichaelH: so without further adieu...

MichaelH: let's start with introductions...

MichaelH: would everyone tell us who you are, and what you teach?

LeniD: Well, Daniel already did so...

LeniD: I'm Leni Donlan - a classroom teacher and educational technology enthusiast for many years...now coordinator of the Learning Page Project at the Library of Congress.

MichaelH is a technology curriculum facilitator in southwestern Indiana

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a fan of the LOC resources

LeniD -)))

LeniD: Without further ado...

MichaelH lets Leni have the floor

LeniD: In 1844, Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "The salvation of America and of the human race depends on the next Election, if we believe the newspapers."

LeniD: This quote is reflects the passion many American people seem to have about this year's election.

LeniD: I'm curious...

LeniD: What do your students think of the election of 2004?

LeniD: Daniel?

DanielO: They would agree with the newspapers. It seems like it's life or death for many of them.

LeniD: Pretty passionate?

JeffC joined the room.

LeniD: Hi Jeff

JeffC waves

DanielO: Yeah. Definitely. And one sided.

DanielO: Hi Jeff

LeniD: If you have been teaching during other national elections, how does student regard of this year's election process and candidates compare to previous elections?

MichaelH: Daniel, does the "Kerry Factor" in Massachusetts make your students more interested?

DanielO: Leni, it's a different group of students (I taught in LA for 5 years previous) but similar socio-economic sphere. It's definitely more passionate this year.

DanielO: Massachusetts may play a role, but I think it is more about social and economic issues.

LeniD: I think it is all over the country. We just published a number of "Dreams" in the America Dreams project...from Duarte, CA...those students were pretty passionate, too.

LeniD: "There is nothing so deep and nothing so shallow which political enmity will not turn to account." ~ John Quincy Adams

LeniD: How about this quote? Does it sound like today's campaigning?

MichaelH: yes, it does

DanielO: As always.

LeniD: How do students feel about this?

MichaelH: I'm guessing they might be fed up with all the negative campaigning

LeniD: I am :->

LeniD: "Our differences are politics, our agreements principles. "

LeniD: ~ William McKinley

JeffC: I want to pop in a link to an article by Ron Suskind, that is very disturbing about this administration. Of course, it would be very difficult to use in the classroom, unless some "counter-article" could be found:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/10/17/magazine/17BUSH.html?oref=login&pagewanted=print&position=>

LeniD: Thanks, Jeff.

MichaelH: Daniel, I must have missed it... do you teach upper classmen?

DanielO: Yes, I'm sorry. I teach 10th and 11th grade.

DanielO: 10th is US, the other courses are 11

MichaelH: so they aren't quite voting age yet

LeniD: I think today's candidates would say this is last quote is true...not sure that the American people believe them, though.

DanielO: No. Although we did a unit on the importance of voting and they were really turned on

MichaelH: that's great!

LeniD: Excellent, Daniel!

LeniD: We will have to wait until November (we hope!) to learn the outcome of this year's election.

LeniD: But we can look at Library resources that help explain and clarify our election process... or commemorate elections past.

LeniD: Are you ready to take a look?

MichaelH is

DanielO: yep

LeniD: We're off and running!

LeniD: A Guide to Election Law

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/law/guide/elections.html>

JeffC: What bothers me is that teachers are directed *not* to look at the election in their classes... for fear that they will show their own biases.

MichaelH: Daniel, you'll want to click the blue link to look at the page Leni is showing.

MichaelH: but don't stray away long... Leni has more!

DanielO: got it, thanks.

LeniD: Really, Jeff? I always shared elections...but tried to remain neutral.

DanielO: It's like discussing religion.

LeniD: It's part of the fabric of civics and American History...how can we ignore it?

MichaelH: always taught elections, too

LeniD: Election 2000

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/minerva/collect/elec2000/>

LeniD: That last one is part of the Minerva Project...which captured and archived web sites.

LeniD: A Guide to Election Resources

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/llrrel.html>

MichaelH reminds everyone that all the sites Leni is sharing will be in your TAPPED IN transcript

LeniD: Learn about the presidents and their wives...

LeniD: A Time Line of Presidents and First Ladies:

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/odmdhtml/pptime.html>

LeniD: First Ladies of the United States

LeniD: http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/058_intr.html

LeniD: Presidents of the United States

LeniD: http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/057_intr.html

LeniD: A lighter (or darker!) touch -

LeniD: http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/057_intr.html

LeniD: oops...

LeniD: From Library of Congress Exhibits...

LeniD: Oliphant's Anthem: Presidential Campaigns

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/oliphant/part3.html>

JeffC: These are all great links for teaching history... but I guess what I'm getting at with my above comment is to teach current events... and dealing with the current election... teachers in my district at least have been warned against teaching the election. I'd like to see students debating as candidates... bringing out issues... but it doesn't seem to be in the curriculum.

DanielO: when you say warned, what exactly do you mean? It seems like it would be an academic freedom issue to tell somebody not to teach elections.

LeniD: I agree completely, Jeff. I don't know how you could teach during an election year without making it front and center.

MichaelH: Jeff, I think there can be some pretty good current events lessons that can be put together by using "critical elections" in US History

LeniD: What I can share from the Library is historical, of course...that's what we "have"...but parallels can certainly be pointed out, as well as comparisons to past elections and events.

MichaelH: exactly, Leni!

LeniD: These political cartoons may be a good way to do that!

LeniD: Herblock's History: Political Cartoons From the Crash to the Millennium

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/swann/herblock/presidents.html>

DanielO: oh cool.

LeniD: While these may be a bit too edgy for the younger set, they could certainly be used with older students...

LeniD: Humor's Edge: Cartoons by Anne Telnaes

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/telnaes/telnaes-pulitzer.html>

MichaelH is laughing at the Tehnaes cartoons

LeniD: She's good, isn't she? :->

DanielO: hehe

LeniD: Jeff, the following resources are useful, without pushing sensitive buttons...

LeniD: From the Learning Page...

LeniD: Elections - the American Way

LeniD: <http://learning.loc.gov/learn/features/election/home.html>

LeniD: And from that feature presentation...

LeniD: For and Against...political humor from the past...

LeniD: <http://learning.loc.gov/learn/features/election/partysys2.html>

LeniD: and...

LeniD: American Political Parties Past

LeniD: <http://learning.loc.gov/learn/features/election/partysys3.html>

LeniD: We did a video conference "bowl" with this one...a number of classrooms have used it independently or as a school event...

LeniD: Who's That Lady? (a Turn-of-the-Century First Ladies' Bowl)

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/lady/index.html>

LeniD: From the Wise Guide: On the Campaign Trail

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/campaign.html>

LeniD: Are you all familiar with the Web site, America's Library?

MichaelH: `:is

BJ Nods

DanielO: I don't think so.

LeniD: While the content is developed for the middle school set, it seems it could be used with high school students to introduce concepts, as well. Would you agree Michael and BJ?

BJ: yes, Leni.

LeniD: See what you think...

MichaelH: yes Leni

LeniD: Carrie Burnham argued for the right to vote.

LeniD: http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/recon/jb_recon_burnham_1_e.html

LeniD: ...the great debates of Nixon and Kennedy

LeniD: http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/modern/debates_1

LeniD: Today in History... Another good resource to introduce concepts...

LeniD: The first uniform election day

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/nov04.html>

LeniD: The learning page offers dozens of lesson plans, though we don't have very many about elections.

LeniD: Here are two lessons that may be of interest...

LeniD: For grades 4-6...

LeniD: Voices for Votes: Suffrage Strategies

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/00/suffrage/index.html>

LeniD: For grades 9-12...

LeniD: Women, Their Rights and Nothing Else

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/99/suffrage/intro.html>

LeniD: How are you all doing?

MichaelH: great, Leni!

LeniD: Good to know, Michael

LeniD: Visit the Collection Connections for teaching tips to use with these election related American Memory collections...

BJ smiles...overwhelmed as usual with all the great resources

LeniD: American Leaders Speak: Recordings from World War I and the 1920 Election

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/collections/nforum/index.html>

LeniD: Thanks, BJ

DanielO: sorry, for checking out for a second. Great sources

LeniD: I'm glad you like them, Daniel

LeniD: A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1873

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/collections/law/index.html>

LeniD: And here I will stop!

DanielO: Wow. So there are links to recordings of debates around WWI and the '20 election?

LeniD: Yep. We have marvelous resources, Daniel

LeniD: You can find all of these resources in the Learning Page Community Center - Elections

LeniD: http://www.loc.gov/learn/community/cc_elections.php

MichaelH: Any questions for Leni tonight?

LeniD: Jeff...I'm still thinking about your concerns about teaching the elections as current events.

DanielO: are there video sources?

MichaelH: Leni, I saw a very similar thing in the "CyberConvention" project teachers in my district are doing

LeniD: Some, Daniel. There are Cybercasts by historians and luminaries, as well.

DanielO: I'm sorry. What's a "Cybercast?"

MichaelH: a teacher reported that she was forbidden to display pictures of Bush and Kerry in a bulletin board

LeniD: Video taped presentations which are streamed from the site, Daniel.

DanielO: neat

LeniD: Really Michael????

MichaelH: yes, Leni... I couldn't believe it either

LeniD: I'm deeply disturbed to think that we must separate "real life" from our classrooms in some places today.

MichaelH: I know a teacher should be "non-committal", but that seemed like overkill

DanielO: We're supposed to teach critical thinking, but not about anything actually critical

LeniD: Good point, Daniel. Critical thinking requires something real to think about!

LeniD: Yes?

LeniD: As we approach the national election of 2004, consider this quote from James Buchanan:

MichaelH: I agree... it's one thing to force your opinion on another (like a student), but simply to deny the right to post pictures?

LeniD: "The ballot box is the surest arbiter of disputes among free men. "

LeniD: Good teachers never force their opinions...and they "teach" their students to honor opinions other than their own...life skills, right?

LeniD: But we can't ignore what is going on in our communities, our states, the nation and the world.

MichaelH: I sure agree, Leni

LeniD: Getting off my soap box and back to the last quote :->

LeniD: After the election of 2000, do you think most Americans feel this is true?

MichaelH: I think what happened in 2000 is what is leading to what Daniel said at the start... about all the interest in this year's election

DanielO: what do you mean?

LeniD: Yep.

LeniD: I hope we can all help our students to feel that being active citizens is what it is all about.

MichaelH: when you talked about how much interest your students had in the race, some people feel cheated that their vote didn't count in 2000

MichaelH: especially if you lived in Florida

DanielO: Yeah. True. But I think (to get on my own soapbox) that the last four years have also polarized the nation.

LeniD: True, Michael...but we have to help today's students see ways they can make a difference...not feel that what they do doesn't matter. Again, stepping down from my soapbox

LeniD: Next month (November 18) we will be talking about and sharing political cartoons from the Library of Congress.

MichaelH: well, that's true... and maybe one of the reasons why this election is so important to a lot of people

MichaelH: I'll look forward to that one, Leni!

MichelleDP: I think that you are right about the Florida votes that was a mess. I have not heard a lot about education lately in the political arena

LeniD: Agreed, Michael.

LeniD: Please join us on Nov. 18...

DanielO: I love cartoons. I'll be there.

MichaelH will be there

LeniD: Great!

BJ applauds for Leni...thanks so much for the interesting resources!

DanielO sighs

LeniD: See you both then

MichaelH applauds, too !

DanielO applauds for Leni

LeniD: Thanks, Daniel! See you all next month....