



Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson 11

Maggie Says...

In these difficult times, as our nation and the world pull together, it is more important than ever to understand our role as a citizen.

Today's lesson is about the purpose of elections: When I was laying in my doggy bed at home, my ears perked up as I heard my family talking about who they should vote for in an upcoming election. An election is the process of voting to select a person to serve as a leader or representative in the government. Elections are very important because they allow citizens to vote and have their voices heard. When citizens vote in elections, they are able to

choose leaders that can best represent the citizens' interests in the government and promote the common good for all people.

Sticky Situation: Every year, the 5th grade class at Ferguson Elementary School must decide which student will serve as the Class President. This year, there are two 5th grade students who want to serve as the Class President. These students are John and Elizabeth. John believes that he would be the best person for the job and thinks that he should be automatically be declared Class President without holding a class vote. Elizabeth thinks that the only fair way to determine who should be the Class President is by having all of the 5th grade students vote in an election so that each student has a say as to who should be the Class President.

Do you agree with John or Elizabeth? Why is it important to have a fair process when people need to select their leaders? What would happen if a person was able to declare themselves as the leader without having elections where citizens could vote to make their voices and opinions heard?

Activity: Imagine that your class at school is having an election for Class President next month. Make a list of issues that would be important to you when you vote in the upcoming election. For example, maybe you think that students should be given more time to play at recess. Next, think of the characteristics of your ideal Class President. What traits does this Class President have? Make a list of which traits you think are most important for a person serving as the Class President. For example, you may think that the Class President should be honest, kind, and trustworthy.

Civic Resources: With your parent's permission, check out the Kids Academy video on why voting is important: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrG7zBUDiqQ>