

# Blogger: Tribal Elections

# **Adventure Description:**

In this adventure, students will think like bloggers and create a video blog on tribal elections.

## **Activity**

### Step 1: Background on Tribal Elections (5-10 minutes)

- Show Video: Tribal Elections.
- Explain to students that there are many Native American tribes that live throughout North America. There are more than 570 different Native American groups in the United States. Each tribe has its own culture and customs, or ways of doing things. Show Handout: Native American Tribal Governments.
- Explain to students that Native American tribes have their own governments. These governments are responsible for making rules for members of a particular tribe. For example, tribal governments create rules about tribal elections.
- Next, ask students why bloggers would want to write blogs about Native American tribal elections. Discuss how bloggers can help people to learn about different cultures and groups of people who live in the United States.

#### Step 2: Activity Set Up (5 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will create a vlog. A vlog is a video blog! Students will create a vlog about tribal elections in Arizona.
- Provide students with Handout: Steps to Make a Vlog. As a class, read through the steps.
- Divide students into pairs or small groups. Have groups sit in different parts of the classroom so they have space to work and brainstorm ideas. Each group will need a copy of Handout: Learning about Tribal Elections.

## Step 3: Researching Tribal Elections (15+ minutes)

- Explain to students that they will complete step 1, reading about tribal elections.
- Have students read through Handout; Learning about Tribal Elections and fill out the information in step 1.
- As students are working, ask the following:
  - How are tribal elections similar and different from state and national elections? (e.g., in tribal elections, only members of a particular tribe are eligible to vote. To run for political office in a tribal election, there are also different requirements. For example, a candidate might have to speak tribal language.

    One similarity between tribal and state elections is that people have to use a ballot to vote)
  - What makes Native Americans different from American citizens when it comes to voting? (e.g., Native Americans are the only ones that can vote in local, state, national and tribal elections)
  - Why are tribes allowed to create their own constitutions? (e.g., the United States government recognizes them as separate nations. This means they can establish their own governments)

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#### Step 4: Writing a Script for a Vlog (20+ minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now complete step 2, writing a script for their vlog.
- As students are working, ask the following:
  - Why is it important for bloggers to reference sources when they make a new episode?
  - Why might people find a vlog on tribal elections interesting to watch? (e.g., helps them learn about different cultures and how they are both different and similar to ours)

### Step 5: Recording a Vlog (10+ minutes)

- Explain to students that they will complete step 3, recording their vlog. Show Handout: Steps to Make a Vlog. Discuss how to record episodes in a professional way. Review Handout: How to Record a Vlog Like a Professional.
- Have students use a tablet, phone, or computer and built in app or software to record their vlog.
- Explain to students that they will probably need to record their episodes a few times, as they might laugh or make a mistake. That is ok! Professionals record episodes a few times before they feel comfortable and confident in front of a computer, tablet, or phone.

#### **Step 6: Watching Vlogs (10+ minutes)**

- Have a class party where students watch each other's episodes.
- Provide students with Handout: Steps to Provide Feedback. Have each student write fill out the handout and give feedback to one student.
- Have students give their feedback to the student who presents in a polite and constructive way.
- Teacher notes:
  - We suggest telling students which student they will be giving feedback to.
  - You can invite other classes to watch the episodes to encourage collaboration between classes. Students from other classes can also fill out the feedback handout on one episode.

#### **Materials List**

#### **Provided online:**

- · Video: Tribal Elections
- Handout: Native American Tribal Governments
- Handout: Steps to Make a Vlog
- Handout: Learning about Tribal Elections
- Handout: How to Record a Vlog Like a Professional
- Handout: Steps to Provide Feedback

#### **Not Provided Online:**

- Assortment of art supplies
- Optional: tablet or smartphone

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