



Lesson Plan 1: Build your own MP

Timing: 30 minutes to 1 hour

Resources needed:

- Cut out of Qualities sheet below

Aim:

This activity (from the Electoral Commission) encourages young people to explore ideas about who their representatives are, what they do and what qualities make for a good MP

Activity notes

Split students into groups and ask them to imagine their ideal politician. Ask them to use a set of 'qualities' cards and ask students to choose the top 10 attributes. The process they use to choose the cards can be an important part of the activity. For example, do they vote on which ones to keep and which ones to reject or do they negotiate? (20mins)

Ask each group to feed back their ideas and get someone to scribe on flipchart paper. (10mins)

Compare each group's top 10 attributes. What similarities are there? What differences? (10mins)

You could ask your students to draw their ideal MP displaying the top 10 'qualities' they chose.

N.B. Feel free to amend the 'qualities' cards below if necessary

Has many years experience in politics	Donates money to charity
Male	Supports the local football team
Female	Can be tough if required
Is married	Will represent your interests
Has a degree	Will represent their own interests
Was born in the local area	Is honest and trustworthy
Is good at public speaking	Can talk to young people
Knows a lot about national politics	Is not involved in scandals
Knows a lot about local politics	Visits people at election time
Is ambitious	Is punctual and reliable
Wears a suit	Wants to be Prime Minister
Is friendly and approachable	Does voluntary work
Is determined	Can talk to old people
Owens a business	Is fit and healthy
Has children	Is hardworking
Can speak another language	Likes animals
Looks good on television	Is diplomatic

