

1 Participation in the Great Debate of 2008 project

- ❑ *Goal:* The Great Debate of 2008 project encourages students to explore and discuss issues related to the 2008 presidential election and strives to build effective global citizens.
- ❑ *Benefit:* The Great Debate of 2008 project provides a wonderful opportunity for your students to connect with other students around the country in a private network and share information and ideas related to the election. It also develops research, critical-thinking, and communication skills.
- ❑ *Philosophy:* The project is emphatically student-centered and depends on your students' contributions, and those of other students, to make it a success. The project aims to empower students by giving them ownership over content creation and fosters community building where students learn from each other.
- ❑ *Structure:* The project is flexible enough for you to decide the scope of your classroom participation. Ideally your students will contribute information and resources to many of the [Great Debate of 2008 wiki](#) pages and join, or lead, multiple online discussions at our [The Great Debate of 2008 online social network](#). At a minimum, your classroom should contribute information and resources to *at least one* of the issues at the Great Debate of 2008 wiki and participate in at least one online discussion at the Great Debate of 2008 online social network.
- ❑ One method of participation is to have your students research *one* campaign issue and develop a page of information and resources on that issue for the Great Debate of 2008 wiki. Your students then would start a discussion on that issue at the Great Debate of 2008 online social network. In this scenario you would also instruct your students to consult the other pages of the wiki to learn about other campaign issues, and then contribute to discussions of various issues at the Great Debate of 2008 online social network.
- ❑ Another method of participation is to break your class into small groups of students and assign those groups to different campaign issues. Your student groups would research their issue and add information and resources to the Great Debate of 2008 wiki . They would also lead, or participate in, a discussion of that issue at the Great Debate of 2008 online social network.
- ❑ *Research:* Effective student research is fundamental to the success of the project. You can formulate the research component of the project as either "guided" or "open." There are suggested educational web resources on the election at the Great Debate of 2008 online social

network and you may simply guide your students to these resources. You may also recommend resources to students. Or you may instruct students to uncover their own resources, online or print. In any event, dedicate the equivalent of 1-2 class periods, or 1-2 homework assignments to undertake the research portion of the project.

- ❑ *Contributions:* Following research, students should contribute information and resources on their particular campaign issue to the Great Debate of 2008 wiki and participate in a campaign issue discussion(s) at the Great Debate of 2008 online social network. Contributions to the Great Debate of 2008 wiki can take many forms. (For ideas, please consult the [Immigration](#) and [Iraq War](#) pages developed by students at the Noble and Greenough school in Dedham, Massachusetts.) Dedicate the equivalent of 1-2 class periods, or 1-2 homework assignments, to complete contributions to the project.
- ❑ It is recommended that you review the information and resources for accuracy and appropriateness before students submit it to the Great Debate of 2008 wiki.
- ❑ It is also recommended that you discuss with students the formulation of an appropriate question to start a discussion on the issue at the Great Debate of 2008 online social network.
- ❑ Ask your students to take part in the online polls and surveys at the Great Debate of 2008 online social network and to consult the various multimedia resources at the network.
- ❑ Notify your students that your classroom will be judged on the quantity and quality of its contributions to both the wiki and the online social network and you may win a prize as a result of those contributions.
- ❑ *Scheduling:* Contributions to the wiki and the online social network should be in place by November 10. It is recommended that you take 1-2 class periods, or homework assignments, in the first month of the project to undertake research. Then, take 1-2 class periods, or homework assignments, to complete contributions to the wiki and online social network by November 10.
- ❑ *Assessment:* It is recommended that you assess your students on the quality and effectiveness of their research and the quality of their contributions to the wiki and the online social network. Think carefully before assigning a formal grade to student opinions on issues and candidates in discussion forums. It is recommended that you assess student opinions based on the quality of critical thinking and knowledge that the opinions represent.
- ❑ Consider requiring students to turn in an annotated bibliography, or a list of works consulted.
- ❑ A formal assessment rubric is available upon request.

2 Technical Information

- ❑ You and your students will need Internet access to participate in the Great Debate of 2008 project. Online activities can be conducted at school or at home.
- ❑ In order to view YouTube videos at your school, you may be required to secure and with permission from your IT administrator. YouTube videos may also be viewed from home, or another location with Internet access.
- ❑ You and your students will receive two separate e-mail invitations, one that will give you permission to edit our wiki pages and the other to participate in our private online social network. *In order to help protect their privacy, instruct students to sign up without using their last name, Ex." Paul K.", or create a list of pseudonyms for the students.* I will require a class list with student e-mail addresses.
- ❑ Your students will need to learn how to edit a wiki page, a relatively simple process. You may consult our video tutorial on how to edit a page at wikispaces.com
- ❑ Please note that a wiki page cannot be edited simultaneously by more than one logged in user. Wikispaces.com will notify you if another user is simultaneously editing the same wiki page. Do not construct multiple students to edit the same wiki page at the same time.
- ❑ Both the wiki and the online social network are monitored by Tom Daccord, and posts to the wiki and the online social network can be removed quickly.
- ❑ Since users must log in to participate, or will have a complete record of all student activity at the wiki and the online social network.
- ❑ If your students inadvertently delete information on a wiki page it is possible to revert back to an earlier version of that same page. Please notify me via [my contact form](#) so that I can make any necessary corrections.
- ❑ If you encounter a technical difficulty, please let me know as soon as possible. I will provide you with a cell phone number so that you can reach me quickly. You may also contact me via [my contact form](#)

3 Code of conduct

- ❑ By participating in the Great Debate of 2008 project, you agree to use our wiki and online social network for academic purposes only related to the 2008 presidential election.

- You and your students agree not to use profane, sexually explicit, racist, sexist, or hurtful language or materials.
- Your students agree to refrain from using personally identifiable information, such as a last name, home address, personal e-mail address, home telephone number, and the like. (See note under "Technical Information.")
- You will notify your students that participation in the project is monitored and any inappropriate language or materials will be removed, and the responsible student(s) may be punished.
- As the constructor, you agree to abide by these codes of conduct. Your signature at the bottom of this page signals your acceptance of the code of conduct that governs your participation in the Great Debate of 2008 project and your willingness to enforce it.

Teacher signature: _____

School: _____