



Running for Office Constitutional Requirements Review Activity

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Benchmark

SS.7.C.2.9: Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, debates, and political ads.

Activity

Students will complete review activities to demonstrate their knowledge of the constitutional requirements to become a member of the House of Representatives, Senate or the president. Activities include matching, scenarios and higher-order thinking questions.

Materials

- * Constitutional Requirements Review handout, pages 2 - 4 one per student
 - o Optional Student Scaffolded Version, pages 6 - 8
- * Teacher Answer Key

Instructions for In Person, Hybrid or Distance Learning

1. Hand out the Constitutional Requirements handout, one per student either as a physical worksheet or share the interactive pdf version.
2. Instruct students to complete the handouts independently or with a shoulder partner.
3. Review the answers with students either monitoring student progress while they are completing the activities or as a whole class upon completion.

This resource series was developed in partnership between OCPS civics teachers and the Lou Frey Institute.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Constitutional Requirements Review, Activity 1

Directions: Match the qualifications (on the left) to either House of Representatives, Senate, or President. Put an **X** in the box in which it matches. (hint: you should have only one X per qualification!)

Qualifications	House of Reps.	Senate	President
Must be at least 25 years old			
Must be at least 30 years old			
Must be at least 35 years old			
Must be a natural born citizen			
Must be a citizen for a least 9 years			
Must be a citizen for at least 7 years			
Must live in the district they want to represent			
Must live in the state they want to represent (doesn't have to be in the district)			
Can serve an unlimited number of 6-year terms			
Can serve two 4-year terms			
Can serve an unlimited number of 2-year terms			

Constitutional Requirements Review, Activity 2

Directions: Read the scenarios on the left and then **mark the box next to** the correct response. Remember, use the information to determine/infer the **BEST** response - use your chart above to help you!

SCENARIO	RESPONSE	HOW DO YOU KNOW? (Support your answer!)
Maria is 34 years old and has been living in Florida for 10 years. She has been a naturalized citizen for 12 years. <i>Which public office is Maria eligible to hold?</i> <i>(hint: choose the HIGHEST)</i>	House of Representatives	
	Senate	
	President	
	None of these	
Carlo is 21 years old and a natural-born citizen. He has lived in California the last 4 years. He can tell you anything you want to know about U.S. History and Civics. <i>Which public office is Carlo eligible to hold?</i>	House of Representatives	
	Senate	
	President	
	None of these	

SCENARIO	RESPONSE		HOW DO YOU KNOW? (Support your answer!)		
<p>Lillian is 30 and was born and raised in Florida. She has always dreamt of being president one day. She was a class president, student-body president, and even runs a local political group in her neighborhood. <i>Which public office is Lillian eligible to hold? (hint: choose the HIGHEST)</i></p>		House of Representatives			
		Senate			
		President			
		None of these			
<p>Tobias is 50 years old and currently lives in Orlando, Florida. He moved to Florida 30 years ago from England where he had been living for most of his life. Both of Tobias' parents were U.S. citizens when Tobias was born. Tobias has recently been thinking the government needs some changes and that he could be the right person for the job. <i>Which public office is Tobias eligible to hold? (hint: choose the HIGHEST)</i></p>		House of Representatives			
		Senate			
		President			
		None of these			
<p>Yesenia was born in the Ukraine and moved to the United States when she was 2. She became a naturalized citizen 7 years ago. She is now 28 years old and works at an engineering firm, but she has started to feel like she wants to take on a role in the government instead. <i>Which public office is Yesenia eligible to hold?</i></p>		House of Representatives			
		Senate			
		President			
		None of these			
<p>Fred is very excited! He just became a naturalized citizen last week and he LOVES American politics. He cannot wait to get involved and become an active citizen. Even though he is only 26 years old, he knows he can make a difference in his community. <i>Which public office is Fred eligible to hold?</i></p>		House of Representatives			
		Senate			
		President			
		None of these			
<p>Zoila is 29 years old and has been living in Virginia most of her life. She was naturalized when she was 21 years old and has dreamed of having a job in the U.S. Government, helping the people. <i>Which public office is Zoila eligible to hold?</i></p>		House of Representatives			
		Senate			
		President			
		None of these			

Constitutional Requirements Review, Activity 3

Directions: Read the questions below and answer in complete sentences.

Why do you think someone is allowed to be 25 years old to run as a candidate for the House of Representatives but must be 30 years old to run for the Senate and 35 years old to run for President?

In order to be President, you have to be a natural born citizen, unlike for the Senate or House of Representatives. Why do you think this is? Do you think this should be changed?

Do you think there should be term limits for members of the Senate and House of Representatives like there are for the President? Why or why not?

**STUDENT HANDOUT
SCAFFOLDED VERSION**

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Date: _____

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Constitutional Requirements Review, Activity 2

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Maria is 34 years old and has been living in Florida for 10 years. She has been a naturalized citizen for 12 years. <i>Which public office is Maria eligible to hold?</i> <i>(hint: choose the HIGHEST)</i>	House of Representatives	I know this because _____ _____ _____
	Senate	
	President	
	None of these	
Carlo is 21 years old and a natural-born citizen. He has lived in California the last 4 years. He can tell you anything you want to know about U.S. History and Civics. <i>Which public office is Carlo eligible to hold?</i>	House of Representatives	I know this because _____ _____ _____
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	President	
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		President	
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		Senate	
		President	
		None of these	
<p>Zoila is 29 years old and has been living in Virginia most of her life. She was naturalized when she was 21 years old and has dreamed of having a job in the U.S. Government, helping the people. <i>Which public office is Zoila eligible to hold?</i></p>		House of Representatives	<p>I know this because</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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Why do you think someone is allowed to be 25 years old to run as a candidate for the House of Representatives but must be 30 years old to run for the Senate and 35 years old to run for President?

I think this is allowed because _____

_____.

In order to be President, you have to be a natural born citizen, unlike for the Senate or House of Representatives. Why do you think this is? Do you think this should be changed?

I think this is a requirement because _____

_____.

I think this should/shouldn't be changed because _____

_____.

Do you think there should be term limits for members of the Senate and House of Representatives like there are for the President? Why or why not?

I think there should/shouldn't be term limits because _____

_____.