

Fraud, Suppression and Corruption Lesson Plan

Objective: Students should understand the difference between fraud, suppression and corruption in voting and be able to apply their understanding to specific instances.

Step One: Go over definitions of fraud, suppression and corruption with the class.

Voter Fraud: Any person who knowingly tries to cast a vote, persuade or intimidate another voter to vote for a specific candidate. This could be by using an absentee ballot, online, or in person at the polls. This is punishable by a fine of \$500-\$5,000 dollars and one to five years of jail time.

Corruption of the Vote: Any person whom through online or absentee voting, casts or switches the vote of a registered voter in order to have one party win. This would be considered a level 6 felony which carries with it a sentence of six months to two and a half years in prison as well as a fine of no more than \$10,000.

Suppression of the Vote: Knowingly and Willfully attempting to exclude someone from casting their vote. In the past this was done through such laws as 'Jim Crow' and 'grandfather clauses.' Today voter suppression is done by destroying, altering, obstructing or failing to deliver a voting ballot. Voter Suppression is considered a level 9, nonperson felony which comes with a prison term not to exceed 10 years as well as a fine not to exceed \$50,000 or both.

Step Two: Use examples to illustrate the three concepts.

Example of *corruption*: Secret ballots

- <http://juliesfreshair.com/general/the-surprising-history-of-the-secret-ballot/>
- <http://homepage.cs.uiowa.edu/~jones/voting/pictures/>
- <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2008/10/13/rock-paper-scissors>

Example of *suppression of votes*: Suppression of various groups, including immigrants and people of certain religions

- League of Women Voters suppression timeline: <http://lwvne.typepad.com/files/lb-381-adair-history-of-vote-suppression.pdf>

Example of *fraud*: Tammany Hall and Baltimore

- http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/press_box/2008/10/stolen_elections_as_american_as_apple_pie.2.html
- http://www.city-journal.org/html/14_4_urbanities-election.html Election fraud/Tammany NYC & Baltimore

Step Three: Have students explain the differences between the three definitions:

Step Four: Next to each example, “, write F” for fraud, “S” for suppression and “C” for corruption.

Phone jamming
Voter registration fraud
Voter purging or caging
Intimidation of voters'

Poll tax
The Jim Crow Laws
Voter impersonation
Absentee ballot voter fraud

Ballot stuffing
Electronic Voting Fraud
Literacy test
Dead people voting

Step Five: Use the included activity worksheet to assess students' understanding of the concepts from step four.

Protecting Your Right to Vote Activity

Task: Below, you will find a word bank of twelve examples of voter fraud, suppression, and corruption. Connect each term to its correct definition.

Word bank:

Phone jamming	Poll tax	Ballot stuffing
Voter registration fraud	The Jim Crow Laws	Electronic Voting Fraud
Voter purging or caging	Voter impersonation	Literacy test
Intimidation of voters'	Absentee ballot voter fraud	Dead people voting

Questions:

1. _____ is when a political organizations send mail to registered voters that they deem to be unfriendly to their politician, creates a list based on the mail that is returned as undeliverable, and claims that those individuals should not be allowed to vote since the mail did not reach the registered address.
2. _____ describes when political organizations make phone call to block the phone lines of voters that are most likely to vote against them.
3. _____ were a series of laws established primarily in the South and border states in reaction to "separate but equal". These laws denied African-Americans the right to vote and restricted their ability to run for office.
4. _____ refers to the testing of citizens level of literacy and ability to write in order to determine qualification for the right to vote.
5. A discriminatory tax at the polls established to suppress votes of non-whites is called a _____.
6. _____ is when the electronic system in which one is voting does not accurately collect the votes. Examples include when machinery skips count of thousands of votes, gibes too many votes to a candidate, or simply miscounts the votes due to a bad chip or program software.
7. When a person claims to be another individual when casting a vote, he or she is said to be committing _____.
8. _____ is the act of the registering someone else to vote in order to increase the amount of votes that a specific candidate receives. Examples of this act include submitting a voter registration card for a made-up person or filling out a card using the name of a real person, but without their consent.
9. The act of _____ occurs when someone fills out an absentee ballot with the name of a non-existent voter, false information, etc. to manipulate an election.
10. _____ is when an individual submits multiple ballots rather than the one vote that they are legally permitted.
11. The attempt by an organization to coerce the voting behavior of a specific group or demographic of voters on behalf of a political party or candidate is called the _____.
12. _____ is when a deceased individuals name remains on a state's official list of registered voters and another (living) person casts a vote under that name.

Protecting Your Right to Vote Activity Answer Key

1. voter purging or caging is when a political organizations send mail to registered voters that they deem to be unfriendly to their politician, creates a list based on the mail that is returned as undeliverable, and claims that those individuals should not be allowed to vote since the mail did not reach the registered address.
2. phone jamming describes when political organizations make phone call to block the phone lines of voters that are most likely to vote against them.
3. The Jim Crow Laws were a series of laws established primarily in the South and border states in reaction to “separate but equal”. These laws denied African-Americans the right to vote and restricted their ability to run for office.
4. Literacy test refers to the testing of citizens’ level of literacy and ability to write in order to determine qualification for the right to vote.
5. A discriminatory tax at the polls established to suppress votes of non-whites is called a poll tax.
6. Electronic voting fraud is when the electronic system in which one is voting does not accurately collect the votes. Examples include when machinery skips count of thousands of votes, gibes too many votes to a candidate, or simply miscounts the votes due to a bad chip or program software.
7. When a person claims to be another individual when casting a vote, he or she is said to be committing voter impersonation.
8. Voter registration fraud is the act of the registering someone else to vote in order to increase the amount of votes that a specific candidate receives. Examples of this act include submitting a voter registration card for a made-up person or filling out a card using the name of a real person, but without their consent.
9. The act of absentee ballot voter fraud occurs when someone fills out an absentee ballot with the name of a non-existent voter, false information, etc. to manipulate an election.
10. Ballot stuffing is when an individual submits multiple ballots rather than the one vote that they are legally permitted.
11. The attempt by an organization to coerce the voting behavior of a specific group or demographic of voters on behalf of a political party or candidate is called the intimidation of voters.
12. Dead people voting is when a deceased individuals name remains on a state’s official list of registered voters and another (living) person casts a vote under that name.