

# JOSEPH, JOHN

## LESSON OBJECTIVE(S):

- Students will gain a historical perspective on the election process.
- Students will understand the value of artistic critiques and deliberate placement of elements in the painting by the artist.
- Students will gain an understanding of visual art as being a narrative communication tool.
- Students will identify how art fulfills a variety of purposes.

## MATERIALS:

1. George Caleb Bingham, *The County Election*, 1852 (7B)
2. Art materials (paper, pencil, crayons, markers, etc.)

## PROCEDURES:

1. Begin the lesson with a group observation discussion using guided questioning.
2. Have students choose a character in the painting to mirror. One by one have students describe what they think their character is doing and feeling and have them mime it. Continue until all students have mirrored a character and you have a live mirror of the painting.
3. Students are tasked with playing that role in our “mirror” of the painting.
4. Ask students to describe their role in the scene and comment on how it fits into the community context of the painting setting.
5. Ask students to role-play a present-day election.
6. Students will then use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the 1852 and present-day scenes.
7. Students will draw their interpretation of a present-day election.
8. Students will pair with a partner and exchange drawings to critique in terms of whether drawings depict characteristics of a modern-day election.

## Assessment:

- Students can adequately complete the following exit slip: “List 3 main differences between the election in 1852 illustrated in Bingham’s painting and a contemporary election.”
- Evaluation of individual students’ role-play and description of their chosen character/subject from the painting