

GATE Electoral College 2016

Playing for keeps, grades 5-8



We finished our final week of GATE Electoral College. The students were amazing!

They are unbelievably well informed about the election, quick studies for new and challenging scenarios, and a delight to have in the classroom.

We wanted to share with you some photos from our sessions.



Students consult interactive maps of the electoral votes for the 2012 election between Governor Romney and President Obama. They tested scenarios where the swing states Florida and Ohio went for one candidate or the other.

We have a brand-new board game that pits pairs of students against each other for a rapid-fire game of Electoral College strategy. Students play the map as it actually looked for one of eight election years. They must deploy limited resources across the map to win enough electoral votes to win the White House.



The entire GATE classroom playing the game.

The students in the foreground are playing the 2004 election between President Bush and Senator Kerry.

Pieces on the board are campaign resources that teams deploy to win states still up for grabs. Chromebooks are used as an electronic scoreboard.

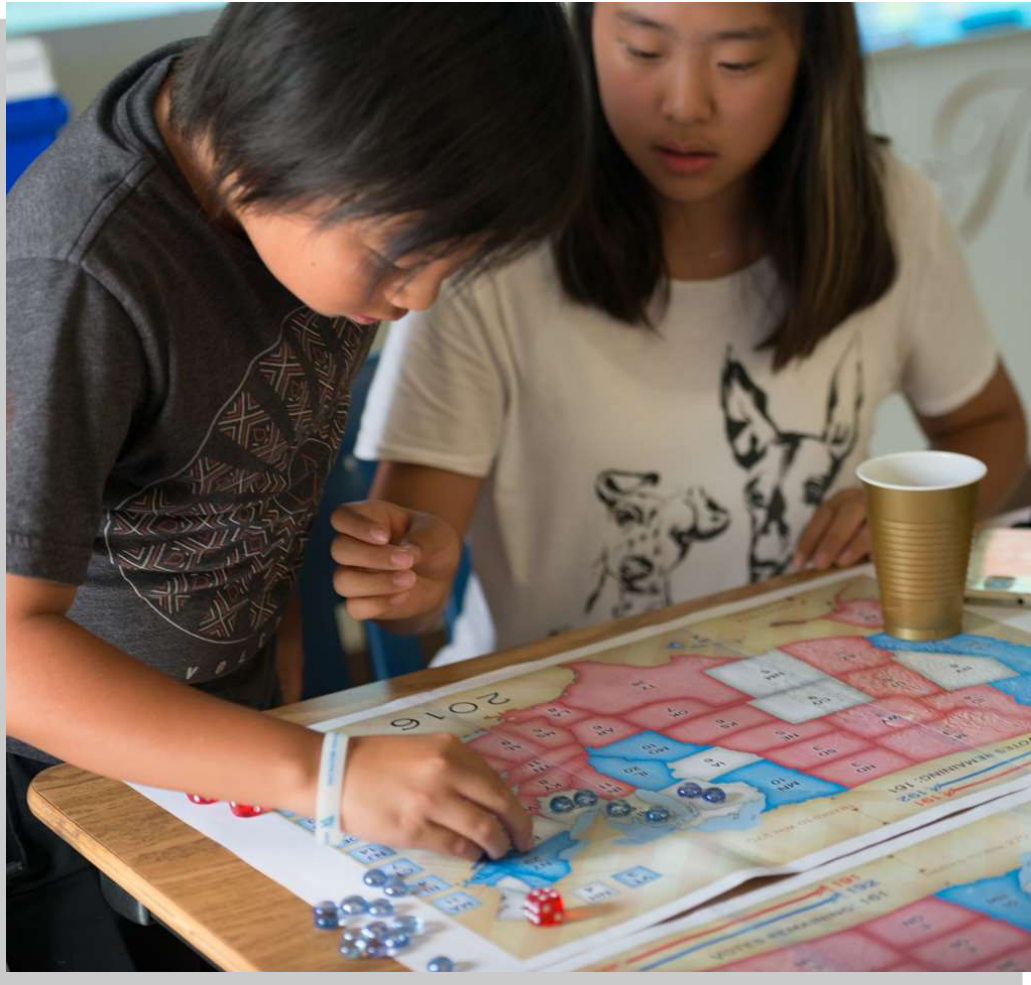


After finishing one map, teams rotated to play another. They quickly learned what a "good" map looks like (i.e., each team has a fair chance, like 1960), and what a "bad" map looks like, (i.e., the landslide of 1988).

Teams play out the campaigns for Senator Dole and President Clinton for the 1996 election.

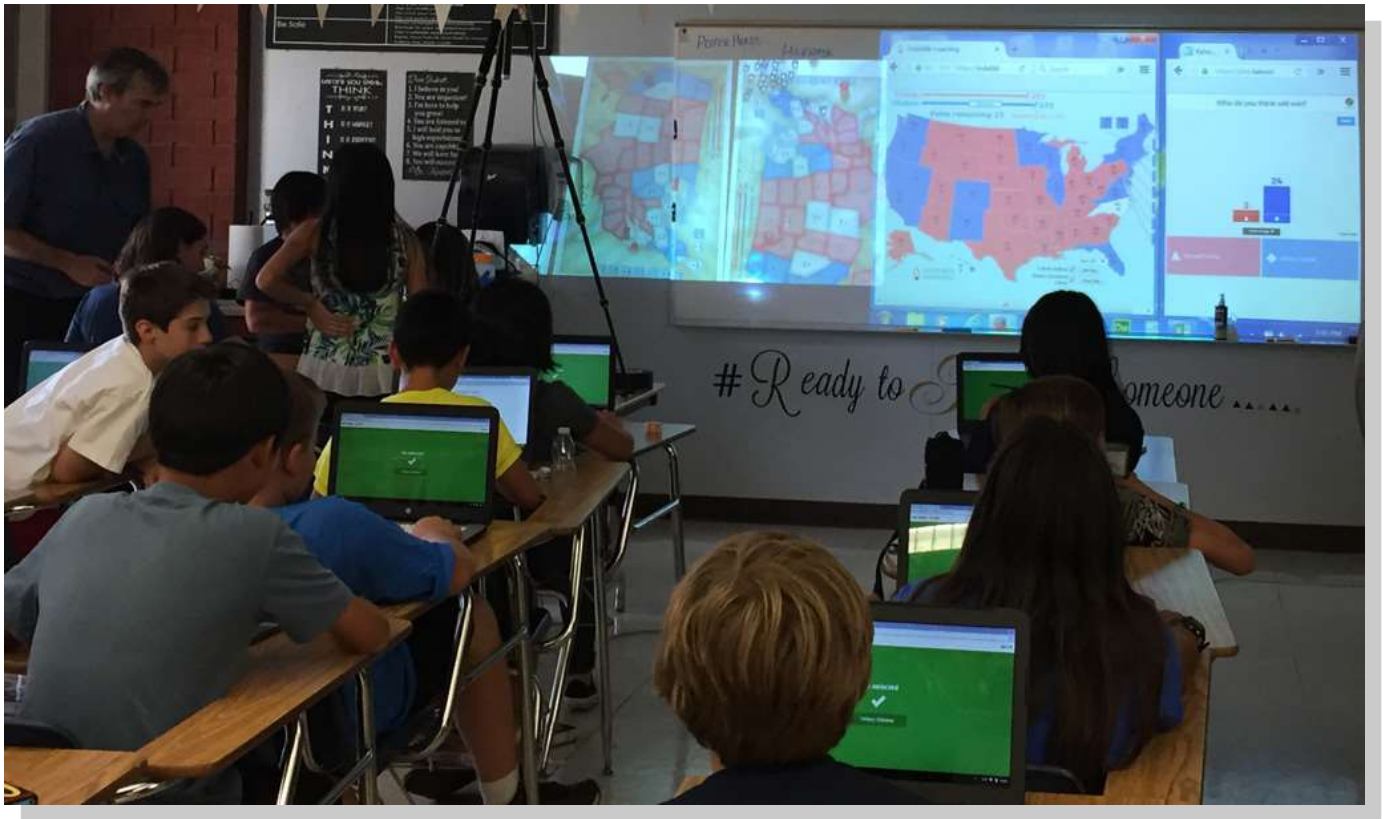


Richard and Williams, co-designers of the game, stand by the game to answer questions as two teams battle for the 1976 election between Ford and Carter.



We created a playoff bracket to determine the best teams. The final was played Yesterday.

For the final, the teams used the electoral map as it stood yesterday morning between Mr. Trump and Secretary Clinton. While the two played to determine the winner, the rest of the class viewed the match as it was projected on the screen and voted in regular rounds of polling to predict the winner. Prizes were awarded for those students who identified the eventual winner earliest in the polling.



We are thrilled your students had as much fun as we did during this innovative, exciting, and relevant course aimed to engage students and improve civics education in our country. They learned valuable lessons and civic skills that could serve them well for the rest of their lives.

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