



# Gold Seal Lesson

<b>Author(s):</b> <i>Ann Cooley</i>			<b>Lesson Title:</b> <i>For or Against</i>			
<b>Grade Span</b>			<b>ICLE Application Model</b>			
<i>K-4</i>	<i>5-8</i> <i>X</i>	<i>9-12</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i> <i>X</i>

### Instructional Focus:

#### Language Arts Integration

Students synthesize individual language arts skills.

### Performance Task

Long before the United States Presidential election of 2000, citizens have been encouraged to exercise their right to vote by making people believe every vote counts. A small percentage of eligible voters go to the polls on Election Day. In 2000, it was proven that every vote really does count.

Develop a class debate concerning the idea of compulsory voting. Argumentation tries to convince or persuade. Suggested points of view for this argumentation are:

FOR: • Compulsory voting is the only way to insure that the majority rules.

- Stay at home voters are a threat to our democratic way of life.
- We must penalize citizens who do not vote by making them pay a fine.

AGAINST: • Compulsory voting is a step toward dictatorship.

- The right to vote is one of our greatest democratic rights. It is one of our hardest earned privileges.
- Indifference is not the only reason for our poor voting record. Simplifying the process is necessary.

Presentations should include:

Introductory statement

Facts – arguments with supporting facts

Conclusion

Other possible topics for debates:

- Most television viewing is a waste of time.
- The principal should have the right to tell students what to wear to school.

### ICLE Essential Skills

Analyze, evaluate and critique such events as current events, political campaigns ( ela 17 )

Define a position on a controversial topic and write a persuasive essay or make an oral presentation likely to persuade a specific audience to change an opinion or take a particular action. ( ela 27 )

Write a speech to amuse, to inform, or persuade a specific audience ( ela 55 )

Support opinions of non-literary events and texts with sufficient supporting detail. ( ela 90 )

**Scoring Guide:**

Rate the written and oral presentations using the following criteria:

4 – Demonstrates a strong argument with a clear point of view, including detailed facts that are fully developed.

3 – Demonstrates good arguments and the point of view is stated well with appropriate facts.

2 – Argumentation is satisfactory but not fully developed. The point of view is not clearly evident. Minimal facts are presented.

1 – Student shows very weak development of argumentation with a very weak point of view and few facts.

**Keywords**

<b>English Language Arts</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Algebra</b>	<b>Earth Science</b>
<b>Writing</b> Persuasion	<b>Geometry</b>	<b>Life Science</b>
<b>Communications</b> Debate	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>
<b>Literature</b>	<b>Calculus</b>	<b>Physics</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>Trigonometry</b>	<b>Other</b>
	<b>Other</b>	