

# ESL

# Professional Development...



## Let's Celebrate Voting Day and Citizenship!



November 7 is election day and why not use this day to discuss the importance of Citizenship in your classrooms by developing their functional reading skills? These are skills that require adult readers to use specific reading strategies such as looking for clues and generating questions (Hock and Mellard, 2005). These reading comprehension skills are aligned with the new CASAS reading assessment.

For more information on this article, look at the *multiple-hours* section.

*I have..* **10 minutes**

### In 10 minutes...

Discuss voting and the right to vote by sharing the amendments that were used to guide the changes on [ELCivics.com](http://ELCivics.com). Additional resources for civics classrooms are linked on the page. Allow students time to discuss in groups what voting rights are and how they are the same/different in their home countries. Finally, provide students with a graphic organizer to compare U.S. voting rights with those in their home countries.

*I have...* **30 minutes**

### In 30 minutes...

Try the Change Agent's [Call to Action - Issue 59](#) to share stories of Citizenship and action from students like themselves. Additionally, develop your students' functional reading skills by using [pre/post-discussion questions](#) to target key skills in their reading and or listening. Try to use articles that include audio, to develop your students' listening comprehension skills which are considered a precursor to reading comprehension. Finally, allow students **multiple opportunities** to interact with the text/audio by reading with a partner, on their own, and in a whole class routine.

*I have...* **1 hour**

### In 1 hour...

Watch this classroom [instructional video](#) from Literacy Minnesota on voting rights, geared towards higher intermediate ESL Learners. Find the lesson plan and additional resources for this video [here](#). For more resources/lesson plans on voting check out [Voter Education, Registration and Action \(VERA\)](#); a resource designed for adult learners in New England.

*I have...* **multiple hours**

### If you have more time...

- [Article-Reading Comprehension Strategies for Adult Literacy Outcomes](#) (Hock and Mellard, 2005).

Have questions, need assistance, or for more information contact  
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