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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative

2009 Volume II: American Voices: Listening to Fiction, Poetry, and Prose

Analysis of the Obama Election: Will It Bring Rights and Representation for Minorities?

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Barack Obama is the 44th President of the United States. Now what? This unit, "Analysis of the Obama Election: Will it Bring Rights and Representation for Minorities?" is designed to analyze the state of our nation, society and government and address how Obama's election is a sign of our changing society's view of minorities. The unit will also look at the progress made since the 2008 election, and will ask students to predict how this administration might leave a lasting mark on minority populations.

This unit reflects the needs of my student body, as 99% of Kenwood Academy's students are classified as minorities. Kenwood Academy students were highly engaged in the 2008 election on many different levels. I was pleasantly surprised at the level of my students' interest and involvement, but I want them to delve deeper; analyzing the election's genesis and its role as a catalyst for "change."

This unit will create a thread that will be woven throughout other units taught this year. To introduce the class, I will have a "tapas" unit, or small units that will be expanded to full units. This small units share a common theme, minority rights and representation. The goal of the unit is to allow students to view the election from the perspective of those from different races, religions, gender, sexual orientations, geography, and languages. Looking at the election from alternate angles will allow students to gain a better understanding of the factors that formulate America's diverse electorate.

(Developed for AP U.S. Government, grades 10-12, and World Studies, grades 8-9; recommended for AP Government, U.S. Government, and U.S. History, grades 9-12, and Social Studies, grades 7-9)

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