



[jencortedcon@gmail.com](mailto:jencortedcon@gmail.com)

301-318-2330

Dear Educator,

The election evokes strong emotions, confusing for kids and challenging for schools. This prompts every school I work with to ask “How are we going to talk about the election?!?” Distilling the conversation to candidates puts kids in the position of needing to defend positions, is risky for schools and dilutes the elasticity of the skills which we want to stretch *beyond* the choosing of the next president.

This series of lessons focuses on the topics presented by the political parties. Each lesson includes an “Election Connection”, a parent note to be sent home and links to relevant resources. The lessons are provided as reference points, please feel free to nuance for your setting. Each can be differentiated for older and younger grades, includes a parent note and resources.

Lessons Topics Include:

- Understanding Equity, Equality and Justice
- Expressing Strong Feelings So All Can Hear
- Exploring Fairness, Sameness and Differences
- Being Critical Consumers of Information
- Being A Change Agent
- Making Decisions versus Having Reactions
- Labeling and Unlabeling Others

By connecting these topics to, but not solely focusing on, the election and candidates, we are better able to reinforce the skills as we head toward, and move beyond, the election. Please share these lessons with others and provide feedback on how they work for you!

For the full list of lessons and resources, please visit my website at <http://www.jencort.com/elections>. Please let me know how these work for you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Jencort'.



[www.jencort.com](http://www.jencort.com)



[www.jencort.com](http://www.jencort.com)  
[jencortedcon@gmail.com](mailto:jencortedcon@gmail.com)  
301-318-2330

### **Lesson Idea for Middle and Upper School Students As Change Agents**

**Election Connection:** The political parties are very interested in high school. Some in the senior class can vote now and others will become voters. Advertisements are often geared to convince members of the class of 2017 to align with the designated political party.

#### **Objective:**

Students will recognize their role as change agents.

#### **Preparation:**

1. **Time:** 10 minutes to read lesson and make copies
2. **Materials:** Copies of "[Change Agent Quotes](#)" by John Brandon of Inc. for each student.

#### **Lesson Steps:**

1. Gather class together
2. **Share:** As you approach your decisions for what your next steps in life will be, you may have many people trying to advise you. However, in the end, the decision is yours. Your path will be, just that, *your* path.
3. Pass out "Change Agent Quotes" by John Brandon and ask members of the class to take turns reading quotes aloud.
4. What does the term "Change Agent" mean? (One definition is provided by Study.com "A change agent is a person from inside or outside the organization who helps an organization transform itself by focusing on such matters as organizational effectiveness, improvement, and development.")
5. Break into triads and quads to discuss:
  - a. Who are change agents in the world? In your life? In your school?
  - b. Have you ever been a change agent? What was the outcome?
  - c. What skills are needed to be a change agent?

6. Bring triads and quads back together to share their thoughts. Write on the the board a list of responses to the skills necessary to be change agents. **Answers should include but not be limited to:**
  - a. Picking tasks which can be changed (for example, middle and high school are unable to change the candidates for President)
  - b. Knowing when and how to ask for help
  - c. Being self-advocates (speaking up for self when needed)
  - d. Demonstrating the ability to learn
7. **Prompt:** Think of some of the change agents in history (your own history, history of the school or country):
  - a. What did they have in common?
  - b. Was their path easy?
  - c. What were their hurdles?
  - d. What resources did they need?
8. **Prompt:** As you think about this year....
  - a. What kinds of situations might prompt you to be a change agent?
  - b. What might get in the way?
  - c. Let's think about the rest of this year and practicing the skills of being change agents.
  - d. What kind of situation(s) in the Country, our town, your life might need change?
  - e. What resources might be needed?
  - f. What might be a hurdle to overcome?
  - g. What outcomes are you seeking?
9. **Prompt:** Why do you think we might be focusing on you as change agents in connection with the election?

#### **Parent Note:**

We have heard concerns about the impact of the election on our students and recognize that focusing our time just on the election process dilutes the elasticity of the skills we are trying to convey therefore we are spending our time building skills around the topics raised relating to the election. We recognize that the election conversations have been overwhelming, teaching teens the skills and qualities of change agents is empowering to them.

#### **Resources:**

- [www.jencort.com/elections](http://www.jencort.com/elections)
- Kids as Change Agents Pinterest Board  
<https://www.pinterest.com/jencortedcon/kids-as-change-agents/>

- Teens Empowerment [Creates Agents for Change](#) or <https://goo.gl/An1pLn>

**“Change Agent Quotes” by John Brandon of Inc.**

"Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do." *Apple Inc. motto*

"The people who resist change will be confronted by the growing number of people who see that better ways are available, thanks to technology." *Bill Gates*

"It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: It would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg." *C. S. Lewis*

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." *Harriet Tubman*

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." *Mother Teresa*

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking." *Albert Einstein*

"The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." *Albert Einstein*

"Our days are a kaleidoscope. Every instant a change takes place. New harmonies, new contrasts, new combinations of every sort. The most familiar people stand each moment in some new relation to each other, to their work, to surrounding objects." *Henry Ward Beecher*

"For the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: 'If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?' And whenever the answer has been no for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something." *Steve Jobs*

"If you don't like something, change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it." *Mary Engelbreit*

"Your success in life isn't based on your ability to simply change. It is based on your ability to change faster than your competition, customers, and business." *Mark Sanborn*

"As you navigate through the rest of your life, be open to collaboration. Other people and other people's ideas are often better than your own. Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life." *Amy Poehler*