

## A Candidate Watch with Google Tools

Geography, Politics and Civic Literacy

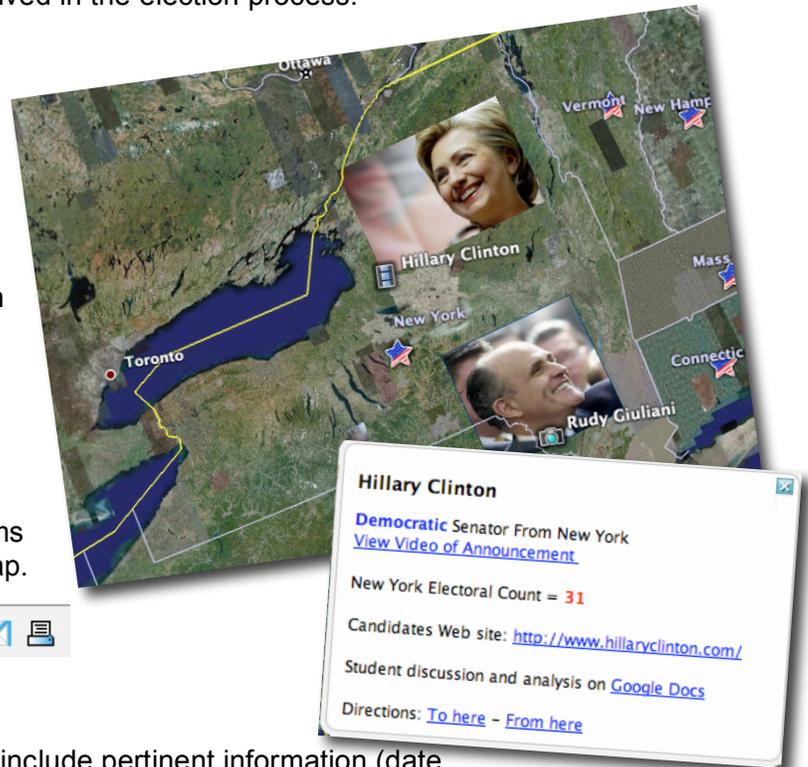


As the 2008 presidential election gets underway, use collaborative interactive tools to engage your students in the election story. With a project based approach, help them follow the issues, the politics and use analysis as they become involved in the election process.

### Start with Google Earth

<http://earth.google.com/>

1. In teams, assign students a candidate(s) watch.
2. Teams locate and "Placemark" potential and announced candidates in a Google Earth tour.
3. Teams link Earth "Placemark Descriptions" to video of candidate announcement or speeches.
4. Using Earth's "Image Overlay". teams link photos of the candidates to the map.



Placemark

Image Overlay

Placemark Description

5. In "Placemark Descriptions", teams include pertinent information (date of announcement, links to the candidates web sites, state electoral number, party affiliation) and links to their Google Docs & Spreadsheet and Blogs (see below).
6. Teams update their candidates "Placemark" with additional videos and links as the campaign progress (including campaign ads).
7. Teams save file as kmz to share with class (In Earth go to: File/Save/Save Place as).
8. Teacher centralizes current kmz file from each team and combines files to make a class "kmz candidates file". Each time student kmz files are updated, teacher adds them to class "kmz candidates file". Ongoing class discussion centers on the role of geography in an election, the campaigns and the issues.

Lesson resource sites for students:

- C-SPAN Classroom <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/>
- Videos of candidates in Real Player can be linked to Google Earth. Teachers can join C-SPAN Classroom for free. Campaign Networks: <http://www.campaignnetwork.org/>

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### Continue with

| Candidate                   | Party | State |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Sen. Joe Biden              | D     | DE    |
| Sen. Sam Brownback          | R     | KS    |
| Sen. Hillary Clinton        | D     | NY    |
| Sen. Chris Dodd             | D     | CT    |
| Fmr. Sen. John Edwards      | D     | NC    |
| Fmr. Gov. James Gilmore     | R     | VA    |
| Fmr. Rep. Newt Gingrich     | R     | GA    |
| Fmr. Mayor Rudy Giuliani    | R     | NY    |
| Fmr. Vice President Al Gore | D     | NY    |
| Fmr. Sen. Mike Gravel       | D     | TN    |
| Sen. Chuck Hagel            | R     |       |

### Docs & Spreadsheets

<http://www.google.com/google-d-s/b1.html>

1. Set up a collaborative Google Docs & Spreadsheet. Each team to analyses the candidate's announcement speech, outlines the candidate's position on the issues and reflects on each candidate's chances. Brainstorm with class for questions and statistics to include on each Doc and Spreadsheet.

2. Teams share, update and revise their documents as they continue to follow the candidates.

**Google Candidate Watch** saved on February 11, 2007 12:52 PM by Cheryl

**Instructions:** As we watch the candidates over the next year, collaborate, review, revise and discuss the focus of each and the

1. When the candidate announced his/her intentions to run, what were the goals, issues that he/she mentioned in the announcement. What similarities and differences do these issues/goals have with other candidates?
2. What major challenges do you think this candidate will face as they move forward with their candidacy?

### Add a Backstory Google Search

<http://news.google.com/archivesearch>

Google News Archives

Barack Obama

Search Archives | Advanced archive search | Archive search help

Archives Results 1 - 10 of about 587 for Barack Obama. (0.06 seconds)

Teams research, reflect and record (in Google Docs) links to background news stories on each candidate. They use Google Search News Archives to create a timeline of news articles. They brainstorm a list of common questions to apply as they research the news. e.g. Has the candidates views on issues changed over time? Is there anything in the background of the candidate that might prove to be a problem in the campaign?

### Top it off with Google Blogger

<http://www2.blogger.com/home>

Set up a class Blog where students can voice their opinions about the 2008 campaign. Each student team takes turns with Blog entries and contributing comments. Blog entries may include topics such as political ads, local Issues from the campaign trail and, of course, links to the candidates Blog, where students can make additional comments participating in the political discourse!

candidate 08 watch

LESSON IDEA USING GOOGLE TOOLS

Blog Watch

Set up a class Blog where students can voice their opinions about the 2008 campaign and the candidates. Each student team is responsible for a Blog entry and for contributing comments to the discussion.

Blog entries can include assigned topics such as Political Ads, Local Issues from the campaign trail and other items of interest as they relate to the campaign.

posted by teaching digital at 1:21 pm 0 comments

Blog archive

- ▼ 2007 (1)
- ▼ February (1)
- Blog Watch