

# **GAME DIRECTIONS: EXCUSES and RESPONSES for Not Voting: Face-to-face and Online presentations**

## **FOR Face-To-Face Teaching**

When teaching in person, the **EXCUSES for students** are printed on cardstock or regular paper, with 2 excuses and responses on each page. You will need to cut each page along the dotted line.

- 1) Have an assistant help to pass ONE EXCUSE to each student. The student prepares his/her/their answer to the question given to them.
- 2) Give the students one minute to think of how they would respond to a friend if that friend gave the excuse written on their card. (They have at least one good response on their card.) Tell them to try to include one or more of the ways they just learned that might help to convince someone to vote. Then, after the minute or so, tell students the following **RULES of the GAME**.

### **RULES of the GAME:**

- 1) The teacher chooses one student at random to read his/her/their excuse on the card out loud.
- 2) The selected student reads only the excuse to the other students. (ASK EVERYONE TO LISTEN BECAUSE THE SELECTED STUDENT CAN CALL ON ANYONE.)
- 3) After reading the excuse, the selected student calls on another student to give a likely response. They can call on anyone in the class who has not already been selected to respond to an excuse.
- 4) The student who reads the excuse gets to “judge” if the answer is sufficient. She/He/They can add something that makes the answer better from what was just discussed or from the excuse card.
- 5) Then, the PERSON WHO RESPONDED gets to read his/her/their excuse out loud and ask another student at random to give a likely response to the excuse.

Continue the game for as long as time allows. The more practice, the better.

**BEGIN the LESSON by:** *“EXCUSES! EXCUSES! EXCUSES! We are going to play a game. The game will give you the answers you might use when friends and family give excuses for not voting. We will pass out cards with common excuses given by people in the 18-29 year-old bracket. These excuses were found in an article in New York magazine after the 2016 election, and by research done by the LWV.”*

**To END the LESSON:** Declare your “vote of confidence” that everyone in the room will vote in the coming year if they are eligible. Ask students to make a commitment. Have them write down one thing they will personally do to increase voter turnout.

## **FOR Online Teaching**

When teaching remotely, the teacher leads the game with all students online.

- 1) Have each student in the class mentally choose a number between 1-28 and to keep it a secret.
- 2) **Put a link to the complete PowerPoint of Excuses and Responses in the chat.**
- 3) Direct the students to go to chat, open the file, and find the excuse that corresponds to the secret number they chose.
- 4) Ask the students to silently read their excuse and the possible responses on the next slide and to prepare to know one or more possible responses.
- 5) Give the students a minute to find their excuse and prepare their response. Have them reflect on how they would respond to a friend if he or she gave the excuse that is on the card they have. (At least one good answer is available for each excuse.) Tell them to try to include one or more of the ways they just learned to help convince someone to vote.
- 6) Then, give the students the RULES of the GAME as described above and begin the game.

Continue the game for as long as time allows. The more practice, the better.

**BEGIN the LESSON by:** *“EXCUSES! EXCUSES! EXCUSES! We are going to play a game. The game will give you the answers you might use when friends and family give excuses for not voting. The PowerPoint everyone reviewed covers common excuses given by people in the 18-29 year-old bracket. These excuses were found in an article in New York magazine after the 2016 election, and by research done by the LWV.”*

**To END the LESSON:** Declare your “vote of confidence” that everyone in the room will vote in the coming year if they are eligible. Ask students to make a commitment. Have them write down one thing they will personally do to increase voter turnout.