

PARENT / TEACHER LESSON PLANS



CHRISTIAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS



Summary

This lesson requires students to engage with the state of Christian political organizations in Canada. Students learn about the different types of Christian political organizations and choose one to do a presentation on. After this, the class determines the most important effort by a Canadian Christian political organization.

Essential Question

What are the most important contributions to Canadian society by Canadian Christian political organizations?

This essential question is intended to get the students thinking about how Reformed Christians, and conservative Canadians in general, have been successful in bringing their perspective to public view. Through beginning to think about an answer to this question, students will see that there has been plenty of work accomplished in this area by groups that have gone before them.

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Engage the students

- Distribute *Handout 1 - Christian Political Organizations* to students and read the introduction together.

Explore an example together as a class

- Distribute *Handout 2 - Comparing Types Organizer*. This organizer is intended to be printed on legal-size paper (8.5" x 14").
- Lead the class in completing the first row "Political Parties" of the table in *Handout 2*.
 - Goals of organization (*what does this organization need to accomplish in order for their work to be considered a success?*):
 - To be elected.
 - To bring a Christian worldview into Parliamentary debates.
 - Who are they trying to influence to achieve this goal? (*Which group of people are they trying to motivate to action?*):
 - Voters
 - Parliament
 - Types of issues that this organization will address. (*What kinds of issues is this organization willing to get engaged in?*):
 - All issues - they have a platform that covers all major issues related to Canadian society

- Threats to existence (*what factors could make it more difficult for this organization to do their work?*):
 - When voters cast their votes elsewhere.
 - Canadian electoral system makes it difficult to elect a candidate for a Christian party.
- Is the organization generally reactive or proactive? (*In general, does this organization tend to respond to issues or do they tend to try and lead on issues?*):
 - Generally proactive but can be reactive to various issues that come up.
- What types of activities does this organization normally engage in? (*What kinds of activities does this organization do in order to accomplish their goal? Some examples could be face-to-face meetings with officials, lobbying, motivating others to action, publishing research or opinions, etc.*):
 - Candidates run for election in ridings throughout Canada
- Does this organization try to influence directly or indirectly? (*Examples of direct influence include meeting with individuals and letter writing. Examples of indirect influence include motivating others to action and publishing research.*)
 - Directly by getting candidates elected to the law-making process
- Is this organization highly organized or loosely organized? (*Does this organization have an office with several paid staff or are they run by one or two people or on a volunteer basis?*)
 - There is a national leader and leadership team with electoral district associations in six provinces.
- Students complete the remainder of the *Handout 2* organizer through independent reading of *Handout 1*.

Practice determining which organization suits the problem.

- Distribute Handout 3 - Organization Profile Practice. Students should initially complete this independently.
- Organize students into small groups of 2-4 so that they can discuss their responses to each of the scenarios presented. Some answers are proposed but the real value lies in students discussing each of these scenarios together.
- Proposed answers for the following scenarios:
 - A. Political party
 - B. Think tank
 - C. Grassroots mobilization
 - D. Issue-based advocate or general Christian advocacy group

- E. Issue-based advocate *or* general Christian advocacy group
- F. Grassroots mobilization
- G. Issue-based advocate *or* general Christian advocacy group
- H. Issue-based advocate *or* general Christian advocacy group *or* think tank
- I. General Christian advocacy group

Task – Organization Profile

- Students choose an organization from the list or propose one that is not listed. Christian as well as non-Christian organizations are proposed but they are all conservative in nature.
- The task is summarized in detail on Handout 4 - Profile of a Political *Organization*. It includes two main parts
 - Summarize the basics of the organization including any ongoing efforts (Part A)
 - An in-depth analytical look at the most significant effort of this organization (Part B). Part B should be completed using a telephone or email interview with someone at the organization. Teacher discretion is necessary here on preparing students with adequate questioning, conversation, and email etiquette skills to complete this part of the task.
- Post the finished assignments on the classroom walls to serve as a reminder and encouragement of the number of worthy Christian political efforts that are on-going.
- Some examples of organizations that could be used for this assignment. (Note: not all are political advocates.)
 - Cardus.ca <https://www.cardus.ca/>
 - Canada Family Action <http://www.familyaction.ca/>
 - 4MyCanada <http://4mycanada.ca/wp/>
 - Evangelical Fellowship of Canada <https://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/>
 - ARPA Canada <https://arpacanada.ca/>
 - Campaign Life Coalition <http://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/>
 - Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform <https://www.endthekilling.ca/>
 - Christian Heritage Party <https://www.chp.ca/>
 - Christian Legal Fellowship of Canada <http://www.christianlegalfellowship.org/>
 - Fraser Institute <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/>
 - Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms <https://www.jccf.ca/>
 - Manning Centre <https://www.manningcentre.ca/>
 - Canadian Lord's Day Association <http://www.clda.ca/>

Extension

- Hold a class discussion to determine the three most significant political accomplishments in Canada. Curate these from the ones proposed in each person's finished assignment. Acknowledge God's providence in providing for men and women to lead these efforts.