Presidential Qualifications

Objective:
Students will consider what qualifies a person to be president.

Students will:
● examine the role of president
● develop critical thinking skills

Resources/Materials:
● 2020election.procon.org
● Section 1 of the “How to Become the US President” resource (includes the necessary sections of the Constitution)
● internet access

Preparation:
● Teachers may want to prepare their preferred lecture or activity on the constitutional requirements to be president.
● This lesson plan can be paired with the “Presidential Electability” lesson plan to compare and contrast whether the most electable candidate is the most qualified candidate for the job.

Activity:
1. Explore the constitutional requirements to be president with students.
2. As a class, have students brainstorm a list of qualifications to be president beyond those in the constitution.
3. In small groups, have students rank all of the brainstormed qualifications, including which lower-ranked qualifications they would excuse, if any.
4. Have students examine the biographies of each candidate (or a select few) on 2020election.procon.org. and determine which (if any) candidates meet their criteria for the position.
5. Students may report their findings in a brief oral report to the class.
6. Have students consider and discuss why some qualifications may be more important to certain groups.

7. Students may also:
   a. Write a job ad for the POTUS position using their brainstormed qualifications.
   b. Explore who else might be qualified to be President--local leaders, celebrities, or family members.
   c. Consider what path they would take to become the most qualified president for the job.

Evaluation:
1. Understanding of role of president
2. Critical thinking skills
3. Quality of report