



**EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH A** room makeover

## HOW TO WIN AN ELECTION AT YOUR SCHOOL



hinking about running for student elections can be scary and nerve-racking because other people are vying for the same position.

You're wondering, "Why should people vote for me? What would I do if I win? How do I get my name on the ballot?"

Take a deep breath. With a little planning, you can be on your way to winning your election.

## WHY SHOULD I RUN?

Before you do anything else, you need to decide why you want to run.

The best reason: you want to help other students. For example, if you run for student council, you should realize that your main job would be to help improve things in your school.

If you run for president of a club, and you win, organize and plan to help your club meet its goals.

## WHERE DO I START?

After you've decided why you're running, find out how your school's elections work. Ask a teacher or your principal what you have to do to run, and find out the deadlines.

Most schools require nominations. This means that someone has to say that they think you make a good candidate.

Don't miss your chance because you waited for someone else to think of you for a job that you



Credit: Googolplex 5 spot



know you can do. Ask someone to nominate you! Once you're on the ballot, find out your school's campaign rules.

Once you know the rules, start campaigning...

## CONVINCE PEOPLE TO VOTE FOR YOU

Convincing people to vote for you is probably the scariest part of an election. The best strategy is to show your fellow students that you will do a good job. How do you do this?

**Determine your issues.** Think about why you want to run and what you want to do if you win.

These are your issues. Then let people know what you will do if elected. When you do this, be careful not to make promises you can't keep.

Give a great speech. Keep it short, simple, and interesting, and students will remember you.

Start by writing down your issues and the reasons you think you're a good person for the job. This is the heart of the speech. It will convince other students to vote for you.

Start with a story to get people listening and then move on to your issues.

Practice your speech so you get used to it, and you won't be as nervous. Ask your parents or friends to listen a couple of times before the big day.

When the time comes to give your speech, relax. You'll be ready and the other students will notice.

**Build your network.** One of the best ways to get people to vote for you is to talk to them about it. Ask your friends to help.

In many elections, people don't vote at all. If you take the time to talk to a lot of people in the hall or at lunch, and remind them to vote, you'll increase your chances of winning.

Remind them why you're running, and why they should vote for you. They'll appreciate that you took the time to talk to them in person. And they'll probably remember your name on the ballot!



Andy, an election winner at his school says, "I had a core group of six or seven friends who I made sure would spread the word that I was running."

A key thing is to diversify this core group of friends. Andy says it won't help if "all six people are on the football team. Instead, have close friends who are in chorus, basketball, debate.... Then you can reach a greater number of people."

Make posters and signs. When you make your campaign posters, use a catchy slogan that helps other students remember your name. It can help you win votes.

If you have trouble coming up with a catchy slogan, try searching the

Internet for sites that help you think of good slogans and quotes.

Don't depend solely on posters. Your fellow students have to know why you're running, and that's why your speech and networking are so important.

### YOU CAN WIN

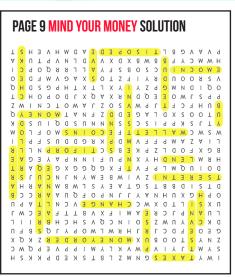
If you keep these things in mind, you can win your election.

Just remember that you have to be prepared to work hard to help your fellow students improve your school.

If you don't win, remember there are always other ways to get involved and make a difference.

If students see that you get things done, you could easily win the next time.



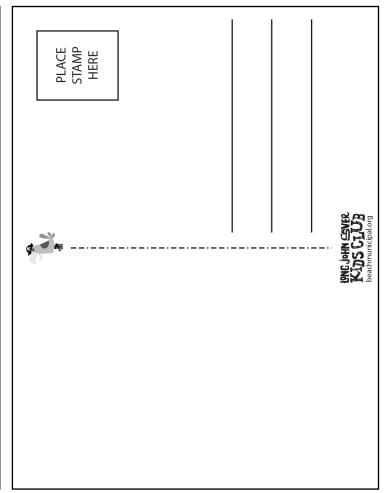


See next page for instructions.

INC JOHN CEVER

WIDS CLUB

Deachmunicipalorg





All you need is some card-stock paper, some scissors, a pen and a stamp to show someone you know just how much you appreciate them!

Just print and cut out these nifty postcards, add your personal touch to the back, stamp 'em and send 'em off!



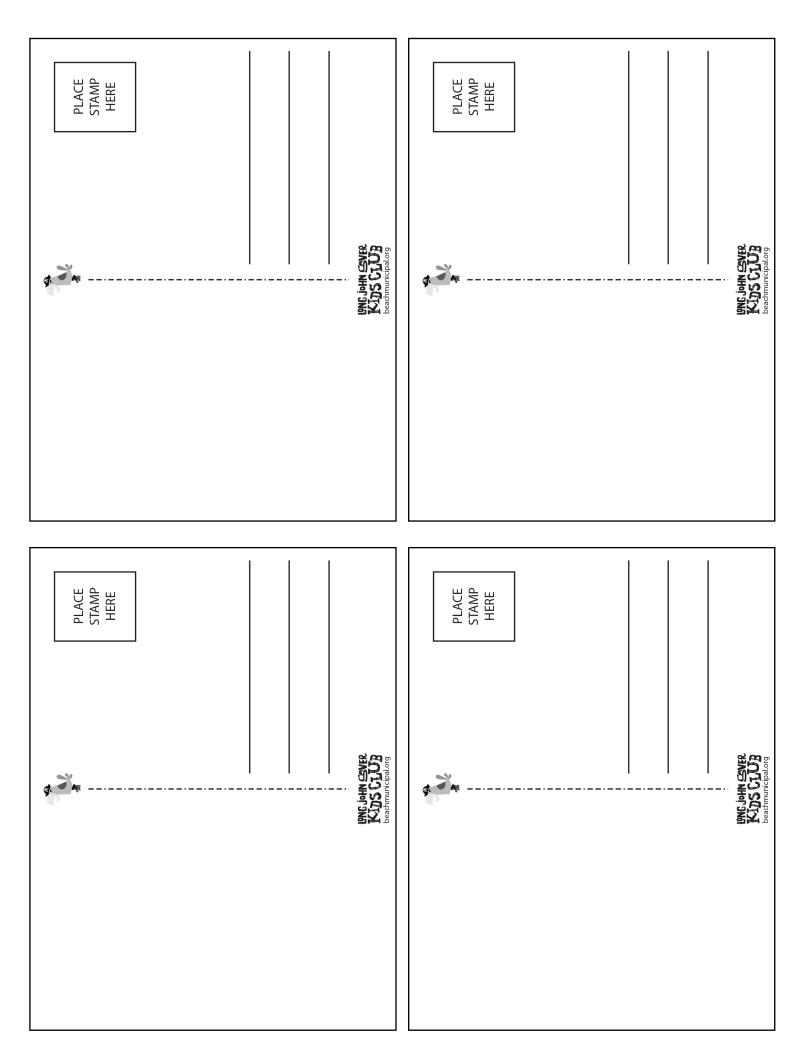












## MIND YOUR MONEY

SEE HOW MANY OF THE FINANCIAL TERMS YOU CAN FIND IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

BALANCE BARTER BUDGET BUY CASH CHANGE CHECKS COINS DEPOSIT **DOLLARS** INCOME INTEREST **INVEST** INVESTMENT LEND MONEY MONEY ORDER **PROFIT** PURSE QUARTERS

SAVE SPEND TAXES WALLET

GNMZLBTS S GQGG



**NOVEMBER 6TH** NATIONAL PLAY OUTSIDE DAY

**NOVEMBER 30TH** 





# CHANGE YOUR WALLS: EXPRESS YOURSELF

"Your walls express your feelings."

-Darian, a friend of mine

our room is a place that belongs to you. It expresses your personality and style. I know I enjoy making my room look unique, and changing it as I change.

Over the years, I've completed many decorating projects and had many ideas for changing my room easily and inexpensively.

Buying new room accessories can be fun, but it gets expensive. Instead, be creative and create your own.

## **CRAFT IDEAS**

You can make many crafts from materials around your house.

A collage is a good place to start. It can be on any topic you like, about you, or just pictures out of magazines.

Another idea is a craft based on a state or place you love. Does your country, state, or town have a unique shape? Nickname? An interesting capital?

Cut an outline of the place you live in from scrapbook paper and put it on a piece of cardboard.

Then write a fun fact below it.

## **EXPRESS YOURSELF**

Quotations are great to put in your room. Just write one on a piece of scrapbook paper and stick it on your wall, frame it, or stick it just about anywhere.

One of my favorite things in my room is my "expression wall." It's simply a section of wall covered in paper where I can doodle, paint, or write whatever I'm feeling.

Or, put paper or treated canvas on your wall and paint a miniature mural of anything or everything. Ask a parent for permission first.

Keep in mind colors and patterns: Maybe you want a certain color scheme, or a fun pattern. Although I don't stick to a particular theme, you might love a certain color.

Whenever you're picking out your decorations, be sure to think about your wallet...

## **WATCH YOUR MONEY**

When something you want is too expensive, search for alternatives or similar items at garage sales, secondhand stores, and reuse centers.

Also check your attic or garage to see if there is anything you might want to use in your room like lamps and nightstands.

Try cleaning your room or closet. You'll find things you forgot you had, and having a clean room motivates you to display items you're proud of.

If you don't have time to decorate, buy some inexpensive posters to put up. They can be of your favorite team, animal, movie, or band.

Posters show off what your interests are and can be good conversation starters.

If there's a certain sport or activity you like (basketball, dancing, or writing), then cut out letters spelling this word and tape them onto the wall. This sounds extremely simple, but expresses what you enjoy.

You can buy holiday lights for a decent price, especially after big holidays when they're on sale. They are easy to put up and add so much cheer to your space.

## IT'S YOUR SPACE

I really enjoy redecorating and changing my room—being able to do whatever I want with my space.

Maybe you don't enjoy it for the same reasons or maybe you just don't like decorating your room, but remember your room is a place where you can spend time by yourself, hang out with friends, and do homework.

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Design is knowing what to keep."—
Scott Adams

When you decorate, not everything will turn out as you expect, but remember, imperfections are what make your room unique to you.



## C O u n t i n g Count all of the money to see how savings add up!

















