

# Help Wanted: President of the United States

## Teaching Theme of the Week

from Education World® <http://www.educationworld.com/>

**Students write help wanted ads that describe the position of president of the United States.**

**Subjects:** Language Arts, Visual Arts, Educational Technology, Social Studies

**Grade Levels:** 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

### Objectives

Students will:

- use online and print resources to study the job of president,
- identify the powers and responsibilities of the president,
- write help wanted ads for the job of president,
- design artwork for the advertisements, and
- create samples of the ads.

### Keywords

*advertising, career, newspaper, president, writing*

### Materials Needed

- classified sections from newspapers
- Help Wanted work sheet [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/TM/WS1\\_lp254-01.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/TM/WS1_lp254-01.shtml)
- Internet or other sources of information about the presidency

### Procedure

Introduce this activity by asking students to identify ways that people search for and obtain jobs. You may list these on the board. Highlight the newspaper's classified section help wanted ads during the discussion, and pass out sample newspapers (pre-screened). Allow students to read the help wanted display ads. Then invite students to share some examples and identify information that should be included in this kind of ad. List on the board or on chart paper some important details usually found in job-related ads.

Talk about the job of the president. What characteristics should a good candidate for president possess? What schooling and work experience are required? What are the demands of the job? Ask the students to think about these questions as you distribute the Help Wanted work sheet.

Point students to the brief page from Scholastic

The President's Job <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=4684&print=1>.

Tell them to read the information about the president's job and use it to create help wanted ads. Every ad should include:

- a summary of the role of president
- a description of the responsibilities and duties required
- reference to the characteristics, education, skills, and experience candidates need.

Students can locate additional information on these Web sites:

- [Ben's Guide to the U. S. Government for Kids](http://bensguide.gpo.gov/) <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>
- [The President of the United States Grades 3-5](http://bensguide.gpo.gov/35/government/national/president.html) <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/35/government/national/president.html>
- [The President of the United States \(Grades 6-8\)](http://bensguide.gpo.gov/6-8/government/national/president.html) <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/6-8/government/national/president.html>

If Internet access is not available, print those sources or offer a collection of other sources of information about the guidelines for attaining the presidency and the role of the president.

When students finish writing, they may embellish their ads with appropriate artwork.

Older students may not need the benefit of the work sheet to get started with this assignment. Refer them to another page from Ben's Guide that is designed for grades 9-12 <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/9-12/government/national/president.html>. There is additional information on the [White House Web site](http://www.whitehouse.gov/), <http://www.whitehouse.gov/> and these students might refer to [Monster.com](http://www.monster.com/), <http://www.monster.com/> for authentic examples of job descriptions. Another site, [Write a Great Help Wanted Ad](http://www.rhondaonline.com/content/hmrArticles_view.asp?sect=people&did=8), [http://www.rhondaonline.com/content/hmrArticles\\_view.asp?sect=people&did=8](http://www.rhondaonline.com/content/hmrArticles_view.asp?sect=people&did=8), provides tips for making attractive and effective help wanted ads.

**Extension activity**

Have students exchange their job descriptions and respond in writing with letters written as able candidates for the presidency. They might even select lawmakers and other "real" Americans who have run for the office or they believe deserve it.

**Assessment**

A satisfactory essay will contain a summary of the role of president, a description of the responsibilities and duties required, and references to the characteristics, education, skills, and experience candidates need.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Help Wanted**

**Position Title: President of the United States**

**Job Summary**

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**Duties and Responsibilities**

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**Qualifications**

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# The President's Job

## A Snapshot

Source: The New York Times Upfront

### Qualifications

The president must be at least 35 years old, a natural-born citizen, and have lived in the United States at least 14 years.

### How Elected

Americans vote for president every four years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. That popular vote chooses delegates to the Electoral College, which actually elects the president in December.

### Term

Four years. The president cannot serve more than two terms.

### Income

Yearly salary: \$400,000.

### Succession

If a president dies, resigns, is disabled, or is removed from office, the Vice president assumes the office. This has occurred nine times.

### Job Description

The Constitution assigns the president two roles: chief executive of the federal government and Commander in Chief of the armed forces. As Commander in Chief, the president has the authority to send troops into combat, and is the only one who can decide whether to use nuclear weapons.

As chief executive, he enforces laws, treaties, and court rulings; develops federal policies; prepares the national budget; and appoints federal officials. He also approves or vetoes acts of Congress and grants pardons.