**Picture Book: How Our Government Works**

**Directions:** Your job is to create a picture book that *visually* explains how the government of the United States works. The book should cover **(1)** how Americans are represented in our government, **(2)** how we select a president (including the Electoral College), **(3)** how a bill becomes a law, **(4)** how the Constitution can be changed, **(5)** how we ensure that no branch of government becomes too strong, **(6)** how power is shared between the national and state governments, and **(7)** what role each of the three branches of government plays.

**The Process:**

1. Meet with your group (groups can have from 1-3 people) and discuss your game plan
2. Look at each topic your book needs to cover come up with a general outline for how it works (make sure that your explanations could be understood by a 3rd grader)
3. Decide how to best visually represent each explanation with pictures and as FEW WORDS AS POSSIBLE
4. Use the materials provided (plus anything you'd like to bring from home) to create the covers and each page of your group's book
5. Make sure that your final product is *authentic, complete, accurate,* and *represents quality work*
6. Turn the project in

**Grading Rubric:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Authentic** | **Complete** | **Accurate** | **Quality Work** |
| **4** | The book and its contents are creative and unlike any others in the class | Book uses pictures and few words to explain all 7 topics | The book accurately portrays all 7 topics and how they work | The project is neat, colorful, shows attention to details, and reflects 8th grade work |
| **3** | The book and its contents are creative, but are similar to another group's work | Book uses pictures and few words to explain 6 topics | The book accurately portrays 6 of the 7 topics and how they Work | The project exhibits 3 of the above characteristics |
| **2** | The book and its contents are minimally creative and like 2 or more other groups' works | Book uses pictures and few words to explain 4-5 topics | The book accurately portrays 4-5 of the topics and how they work | The project exhibits 2 of the above characteristics |
| **1** | The group put little effort into making their project creative and unique | Book uses pictures and few words to explain 2-3 topics | The book accurately portrays 2-3 of the topics and how they work | The project exhibits 1 of the above characteristics |
| **0** | The project reflects no attention to uniqueness or creativity | Book uses pictures and few words to explain fewer than 2 topics | The book accurately portrays fewer than 2 of the topics | The project exhibits none of the above characteristics |

**\*\*\*The criteria in the rubric is worth a total of 64 points. In addition, each group must check in with Mr. B each day and receive a daily work grade — these are worth a total of 30 points (10 points per day)**