

LESSON IDEAS



Need a place to start? Check out these lesson ideas related to our new exhibit,
A Time For Greatness: The 1960 Kennedy Campaign.

★ Debating the Issues in the 1960 Campaign

Audience: High School

Want to teach about presidential debates? Have students watch the first televised presidential debate between VP Richard M. Nixon and Sen. John F. Kennedy in September 1960, and analyze it. Then have students update the issues from the 1960 campaign for the 21st century and hold their own debate in class! (e.g. USSR/Russia; Lack of Political Experience/Political Veteran; Communism/ISIL, etc.)

Lesson plans and related documents can be found at jfk.org/lessonplans.

★ Create Your Own Campaign Poster!

Audience: Elementary – High School

After viewing the posters in the *ATFG* Exhibit, students can create their own digital campaign posters – for Kennedy, Nixon and themselves! Pick out an issue in the 1960 election and a current issue you feel passionate about, and create a digital political poster for the candidate/yourself using postermymwall.com or canva.com or another computer program available at your school. Use the “[What Makes Good Poster Design?](#)” [handout](#) to think about the design elements of a poster, then design your own!

★ The Religion Issue in 1960

Audience: High School

Using the “[Kennedy and the Religious Issue](#)” [brochure](#) from the jfk.org website as a jumping off point, students and teachers will understand why in the 1960 presidential election Kennedy’s Catholicism was an issue and how he answered those concerns.

★ Debate and 1960 Election Related Primary Source Lesson Plans from JFK Library:

Elementary School:

Televised Debates: Candidates Take a Stand

Managing a Presidential Campaign: The 1960 Election

Middle and High School:

Political Debates: Advising a Candidate

Multi-Grade:

Red States, Blue States: Mapping the Presidential Election

To learn more, visit jfk.org/atimeforgreatness



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AT DEALEY PLAZA