

Elections 2024: young leaders

Share stories about young people taking part in the 2024 elections, from activists, to organizers, campaign volunteers, election workers, and young people running for office.



Elections 2024: Young Leaders

DESCRIPTION: On November 5, 2024, millions of U.S. voters will elect leaders, including the president. Young people, including Gen Z candidates and volunteers, are increasingly involved in the election process. For this project, tell a story about a young person who is participating in the 2024 elections.

Est. Time 4-6 weeks

DEADLINE Friday, Oct 11, 2024

OVERVIEW

Tuesday, November 5, 2024 will be a big day– with millions of U.S. voters headed to the polls to choose leaders at the local, state, and national levels– including casting votes for president.

Although many politicians are from older generations, young people are getting involved and making their voices heard. For this project, tell a story about a young person who is participating in the 2024 elections.

Gen Z candidates are now running for office, and teens and young adults are volunteering for campaigns, knocking on doors and working at the polls on election day. In 2022, youth voter turnout was one of the highest levels in a midterm election since the voting age was lowered to 18, [according to the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement \(CIRCLE\) at Tufts University](#).

NEW THIS YEAR! PITCH YOUR STORY

This year, instead of submitting fully produced stories, SRL invites students to pitch their story ideas first.

PRO TIPS BEFORE BEFORE PITCHING YOUR STORY:

- **RESEARCH:** Spend time doing research, talk to people you'd like to interview, and shape your story idea.
- **WATCH:** this [short video](#) about pitching
- **REVIEW:** [this pitch example](#) before submitting your idea.

SUBMIT YOUR PITCH:

- [Submit your pitch using this form](#) on or before Friday, November 14, 2024. Pitches will also be accepted on a rolling basis August 1, 2024 through February 1, 2025

SUCCESSFUL PITCHES WILL:

- Show clear evidence of research
- Tell a compelling story
- List specific people you intend to interview

If your pitch is selected, you will work with an SRL Youth Media Producer to further develop your story for publication. If selected, a team member will contact you within three weeks of your submission.

CHOOSE A FORMAT

- **Profile (2-4 min. long):** A profile is the story of one person. It has voiceover (VO), b-roll, pictures, nats (natural sound), it may also include interviews of family members or peers of that one person. [Watch this example of a profile](#) about an immigrant studying to become an attorney. [Here's an example of a profile](#) of a musician who works to spread hope, inspiration, and empowerment.
- **Explainer (2-4 min. long):** A video explaining a concept. Often it includes a host/narrator speaking directly to the camera. The tone could be serious, funny, or informative. [Watch this student-produced example of an explainer](#) about how music affects your mood. [Here's another example of an explainer](#) about AI and college admissions.
- **News package (3-5 min. long):** Video stories about newsworthy issues and topics. A news package has factual information, balanced reporting, research, voice overs, multiple interviews with people sharing different perspectives, soundbites, b-roll footage. It may also include things like infographics, a reporter standup, nats (natural sound from filming b-roll). [Watch this example of a news package](#) about a new law in Hawaii requiring schools to provide free menstrual products. [Here's another example of a news package](#) about a program to help provide incarcerated people with access to higher education.
- **NAT package (2-4 min. long):** A video story guided by the natural sound from interviews and the environment where you're filming. Natural sound, commonly known as "NAT sound," puts the viewer in the place the story was told by enhancing the scene(s) with video containing rich audio such as a musician singing at a train station, a storm approaching, or the sound of a tractor plowing the field. This kind of story would often not have a voiceover narration. [Here's an example of a nat package](#) about two Italian immigrants who own a pizza shop.
- **Social Media (60 - 90 sec. long):** Short video that tells a cohesive story with interview bites, b-roll footage, graphics and/or voice-over, cut vertically for social media. [Watch this example of a social media video](#) about two teens in Maryland who started a composting organization. Here's [another social media video](#) about a teen from Ohio who eats bugs.

EXAMPLES

- [How to fact check election ads before voting](#)
- [A family of poll workers explains their job on election day](#)
- [We the Young People: Moments of Truth](#)

HOW TO SUBMIT TO PBS NEWSHOUR STUDENT REPORTING LABS

Spend time doing research, talking to people you'd like to interview, and shaping your story idea. Watch this [short video](#) about pitching and [review this pitch example](#) before submitting your idea.

Successful pitches show clear evidence of research, tell a compelling story, and list the names of specific people. [Submit your pitch using this form](#) on or before Friday, November 14, 2024.

Search Data:

GOALS

Teach Media Literacy Skills

Increase Civic Engagement

GLOSSARY TERMS

Journalism

Issue

Community

Stereotype

Timeliness

Solutions

Human Interest

Story Angle

Audience

Character

Pitch

News package

Video profile

Explainer video

Video Portrait

Research

Source

Story Arc

Hook

Accuracy

LEVELS

Beginner

Intermediate

SKILLS

Reasoning
Critical Thinking
Communication
Research
Fact Checking

STANDARDS:

Writing - Research to Build and Present Knowledge
Perspectives
Reading - Key Ideas and Details
Empowered Learner
Determining Helpful Sources
Demonstrate writing processes used in journalism and broadcasting media.
Writing - Text Types and Purposes
Gathering and Evaluating Sources
Plan and deliver a media production (e.g., broadcast, video, web, mobile).

TOPICS:

Journalism
Representation
Stereotypes and Misconceptions
Civics
History
Active Prompts

EQUIPMENT

Computers
Internet