Teaching about North Korea Presents:

Going Inside the Situation Room

*A one-day activity designed to understand the crisis with North Korea*

**Directions:**

1. Before Class: Be sure to make copies of the Student Information packet, cabinet name placards, and homework. Download the PowerPoint that will provide you with the cues and the five minute set up of the situation that you as teacher will present the class as the President’s Chief of Staff.
2. Seating Arrangements: Seeing that your class will be pretending to be inside the Situation Room of the White House, it is recommended that you put your desks in a conference table format, with the President and Vice-President sitting in the middle. You should also print up and place the cabinet placards on the front of each desk. (Please know that these nametags are not aligned with any specific task—but simply to make the situation more realistic.)
3. As your students walk in, quietly appoint one of them President of the United States. Explain to this person that they will have a special role in today's class, running a cabinet meeting about the threat that a nuclear North Korea presents to the world.
4. Next Steps: In quick succession, handout the student information packets to everyone in the room. Have the Power Point ready that will set the right tone. Begin by introducing yourself as the President's Chief of Staff. (Please know that in order for this lesson to work, it is important that you are engaging and even theatrical!) Your job is to stir-up debate and conversation and to make things as engaging as possible.
5. To start the class, using the ready-made PowerPoint, tell the audience that they are the President's Cabinet meeting in the top-secret area in the basement of the White House known as the "Situation Room". Using your best serious voice, say that "Mr. President, at this emergency cabinet meeting we will be discussing a situation that threatens our nation and the world."
6. After finishing the PowerPoint, segue into playing the video by VOX.com entitled “
7. Have the students quietly read the Student Guide that has policy options.
8. Call upon each cabinet member to choose two courses of action that they would take, then share them with their elbow partner. After, open up the floor to then give the President advice on what he should do, culminating with you putting him/her on the spot asking for their top two choices.
9. For homework, have the students complete the worksheet that covers the basic facts of the conflict. You may also consider doing the one day VideoTour or the extended writing assignments, both of which are described on the webpage.

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