

CINEMA^{per a} estudiants

CURS 2009 - 2010

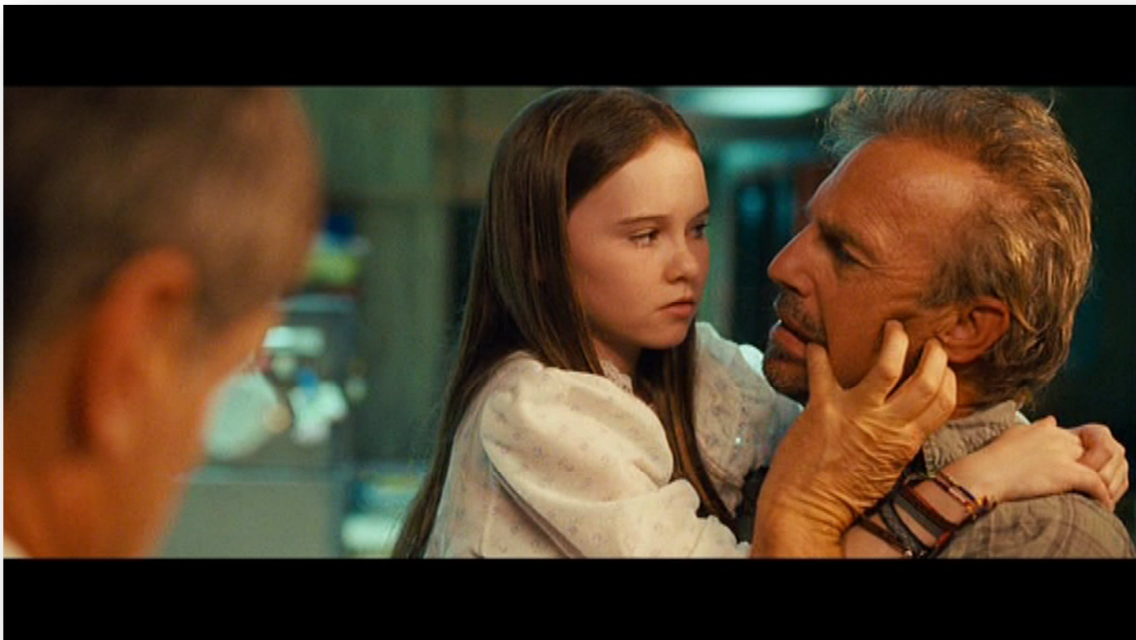


Pel·lícula recomanada per a:

ESO. Batxillerats. Cicles Formatius i Formació d'Adults.

Àrees i Temes:

Llengua anglesa / Ciències socials / Educació per a la ciutadania



Direcció: Joshua Michael Stern.

Interpretació: Kevin Costner (Bud Johnson), Paula Patton (Kate Madison), Madeline Carroll (Molly), Kelsey Grammer (Andrew Boone), Dennis Hopper (Donald Greenleaf), Nathan Lane (Art Crumb), Stanley Tucci (Martin Fox), Judge Reinhold (Walter), George Lopez (John), Willie Nelson, Mare Winningham (Larissa).

Guió: Joshua Michael Stern i Jason Richman.

Producció: Jim Wilson i Kevin Costner.

Música: John Debney.

Fotografia: Shane Hurlbut.

Muntatge: Jeff McEvoy.

Disseny de producció: Steve Saklad.

Vestuari: Lisa Jensen.

País: USA. **Any:** 2008. **Durada:** 120 min. **Gènere:** Comèdia.

Sínopti

Bud Johnson és un entranyable perdedor que empra la major part del seu temps en beure cervesa en un perdut poble de Nou Mèxic. L'únic raig de llum en aquesta apàtica existència és la seva precoç filla de dotze anys, Molly. Molly, en el seu esforç per treure al seu pare de l'apatia i convèncer-lo que voti en unes eleccions presidencials molt renyides, provoca una sèrie de circumstàncies que faran que accidentalment, el vot del seu pare sigui el que decideixi el pròxim president dels Estats Units. A partir d'aquell moment, Bud es converteix en l'objectiu dels mitjans de comunicació i dels candidats a la presidència, que començaran una guerra per obtenir el seu vot.



Swing Vote

ACTIVITY 1.

The film *Swing Vote* tells the story of a man who has to decide the next President of the USA with his only vote. Here you have the faces of several presidents of the United States of America. Can you match the names to their faces?

Barack Obama - Abraham Lincoln - Bill Clinton - George W. Bush - J. Fitzgerald Kennedy - George Washington.



1.



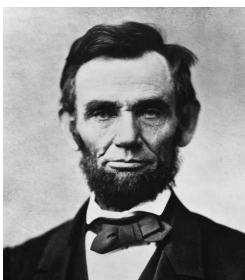
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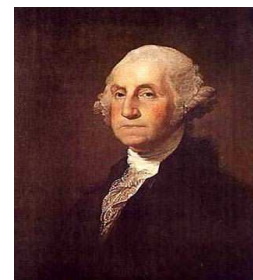
3.



4.



5.



6.



Swing Vote

ACTIVITY 2.

These are the protagonists of *Swing Vote*. Reorder the words to form full sentences describing each character.

apathetic - the - decide - next - an -
president - Bud Johnson - the - vote -
whose - is - of - USA - man - will



is - Molly Johnson - frustrated - life -
young - who - with - a - serious - her - girl
- dad's - is



the USA - candidate - Andy Boone - is -
for - the - presidency - Republican



the - Don Greenleaf - the - Democrat - for
- candidate - is - running - White House



discovers - Bud Johnson - who - Kate
Madison - the - TV reporter - a - truth - is
- about





Swing Vote

ACTIVITY 3.

Read the synopsis of *Swing Vote* and understand the story. Then fill the blanks with the correct word in the box.

has - get - forces - is - do - leaves - chooses - see - isn't - gets - campaign - be - is - takes - begins



Ernest "Bud" Johnson (1) a beer-drinking, blue-collar man whose wife (2) him and his daughter Molly for a singing career.



Bud's daughter, Molly, is the real parent in the relationship. She (3) care of Bud's hangovers and (4) him ready for work.



The story really (5) with Molly, a clever little girl who (6) passionate about politics and the preservation of her country.





Swing Vote



Kate Madison, a TV reporter (7) Molly's school project for a TV show about elections. Unfortunately for Molly, she (8) a father who **could not care less** about politics, even if he is not drunk.



Molly (9) very happy with her father's life. By a silly accident on election day, Bud's vote actually will (10) the deciding factor in the election.



This (11) the Presidential candidates to (12) simply to win Bud's vote.



Along the way, we will (13) the unexpected things that campaign managers and the candidates will (14) just to (15) a vote.



Actividad 3. Vocabulary

blue-collar man: obrer; **hangovers:** (from drinking) resaca; **could not care less:** (usually negative, interrogative) le importa un comino, un bledo, un rábano (colloquial); **along the way:** por el camino



ACTIVITY 4.

Complete the sentences with the correct word. All this vocabulary is related to voting and elections.

candidate - ballot - president - polls - vote - voting machine - debate - civil duty

- a. Elections are a democratic way of choosing a country's
- b. Before election day, televisions and newspapers show the results of to give people an approximate idea of the results.
- c. A is the piece of paper with the candidate name on it.
- d. Only people of 18 or older can
- e. American people have electronic to cast their ballots.
- f. The Democrat was favourite according to an internet survey.
- g. The two candidates appeared last night on a heated on Channel Four.
- h. You must vote when you're eighteen years old: it's a





ACTIVITY 5.

Read the following text and answer the questions in your own words.

Obama, McCain campaigns use new technology *to the max*



From advertising in video games and specialised iPhone *applets* to extensive on-line supporter networks and Youtube videos, the unprecedented use of new media and technology in the 2008 US presidential race has implications for political campaigns worldwide and may well be a precursor to future campaigns. The use of the internet and communication tools such mobile text

messaging has enabled the candidates *to bypass* traditional media and connect with the voters directly.

When Obama announced John Biden was his vice presidential running mate, supporters who had previously registered their phone numbers received the news via text message and email *ahead of* the news media.

Though both the McCain and Obama campaigns have heavily used the Internet and other technologies, Obama, who is the clear favourite among young voters, is by far the leader in the use of these tools.

Obama is also the only presidential candidate to buy *ad* space in video games. Eighteen games, including popular "Guitar Hero" and "Madden 09", *feature* in-game ads from the Obama campaign that appear on billboards and other signage in the game.

Within days of the launch of the iPhone 3g the Obama camp released a special iPhone applet that allowed his supporters *to canvass* and receive up-to-date campaign news on their iPhone.

In the four years since the last US presidential election, there has been an explosion in what is called the "social media". The media, which primarily includes online social networking sites such as Facebook and Myspace, has redefined social interaction for the 18-29-year-old generation.





Swing Vote



Online social networking sites provide an alternative and easy way for **like-minded people** to connect with one another, share ideas and form communities. This enables socially diverse and geographically dispersed groups to come together on a common platform.

The Obama and McCain campaigns have their presence on networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace.

The Obama **camp** has official presence on 16 networking and information sharing websites. These range from networking sites such as LinkedIn to the photo-sharing site Flickr.

Both the candidates have dedicated Youtube channels and thousands of supporters have also posted home-made video clips on the web. In fact, the most-viewed election-related video on Youtube is not by any of the candidates but a small clip by a McCain supporter Iraq war returnee. The clip titled “Dear Mr Obama” attracted 11 million hits.

The candidate websites have also evolved since the last elections and both McCain and Obama have campaign websites that act as **one-stop shops** for supporters.

Besides giving extensive information including videos about the candidates and their views on various **issues**, these also provide online volunteer registration and online fund contribution.

Obama’s official website Barackobama.com has sections addressing specific groups ranging from “Mediterranean Americans” to “People Of Faith”. It also features an “Obama Store” selling campaign T-shirts, mugs, sticker and buttons.



Though technology is no substitute for real-life interaction and can never completely replace the traditional baby-kissing and handshake routine of political campaigns, its use for engaging youth, bringing together people with minimum effort and cost, organising volunteer operations and providing an alternative fundraising route **is bound to** increase in the future.

(Adapted from THAINDIAN NEWS November 2008)



ACTIVITY 5. Questions

1. On the first paragraph there are some advantages of the use of new technologies in the political campaign. Give one example.



2. According to the text, which of the two candidates is better in the use of new technologies?

3. Mention two videogames where you can find advertisements of the Obama campaign.

4. Which group of age is more attracted to social networking websites?

5. Give two examples of how social networking websites can help a presidential campaign.

6. Only McCain has used Youtube channels in his campaign. True or false?

7. Which candidate did the clip "Dear Mr. Obama" support?

8. What's the new section in the candidates websites since last election?

9. Mention four ways technology will help campaigns in the future.

Activity 5. Vocabulary

to the max: (American English colloquial) al máximo, a tope (Spain colloquial); **applets:** componentes de una aplicación informática; **to bypass:** evitar tener que usar; **ahead of:** (in race, competition) por delante de; **ad:** (colloquial) advertisement; **feature:** traer, mostrar (*the paper features an article on feminism: el periódico trae un artículo sobre el feminismo*); **to canvass:** (transitive verb) (Politics) hacer campaña (*to canvass voters in an area: hacer campaña entre los votantes de una zona*); **like-minded people:** personas de ideas afines; **camp:** campaign; **one-stop shops:** centros únicos de compras; **issues:** tema, cuestión, asunto; **is bound to:** está obligado a (*he felt bound to tell his mother what had happened: se sintió obligado a decirle a su madre lo que había sucedido*).



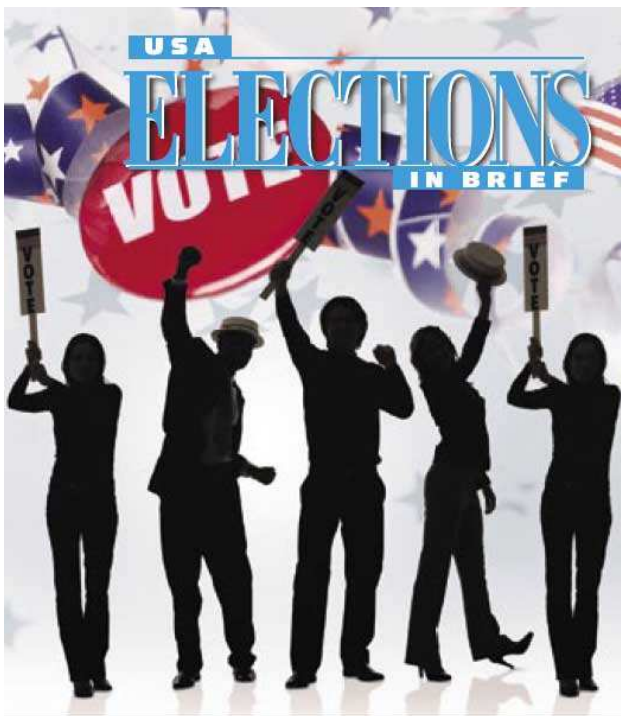
(actividad en castellano)

ACTIVIDAD 6.

El sistema de elección del gobierno y de los representantes al parlamento varía de un país a otro. Lee estos dos textos que hablan del tema y coméntalos en clase. Según lo leído, ¿sabrías explicar las diferencias que existen entre el sistema electoral de los Estados Unidos de América y el sistema electoral español?

El futuro de Obama y McCain está en manos de medio millar de “electores”

Los 538 “compromisarios” no están obligados a votar por el candidato que ganó el voto popular en cada estado.



Millones de estadounidenses acudirán a las urnas "el martes siguiente al primer lunes de noviembre" - el 4 de noviembre - para elegir a su próximo presidente, pero sólo medio millar de “electores” tendrán la llave para designar al nuevo inquilino de la Casa Blanca. Y esto es así por el complejo sistema electoral de este país, donde los ciudadanos no eligen directamente a su nuevo mandatario sino que se decide en el llamado Colegio Electoral.

El Colegio Electoral de Estados Unidos, vigente desde hace algo más de dos siglos y herencia de los padres de la Constitución de 1787, está conformado por 538

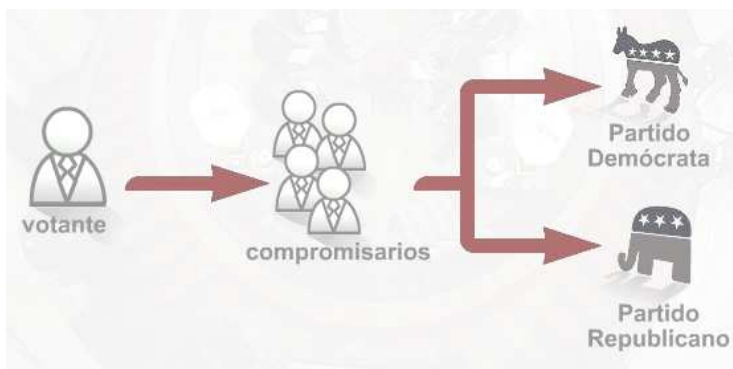
delegados que corresponden a cien senadores (dos por cada uno de los cincuenta estados de la Unión), los 435 representantes (cuya distribución se reparte en función de la población de cada estado) y tres delegados del Distrito de Colombia, donde se encuentra la capital política del país, Washington DC.





Otra de las peculiaridades del sistema electoral estadounidense es que el candidato que logra la mayoría del voto popular el día de los comicios es el que obtiene todos los votos electorales de este estado, en algo que se conoce como "todos los votos para el ganador", salvo en los casos de Maine y Nebraska, donde se aplica una variedad de la regla proporcional para asignar el número de compromisarios a cada candidato (...)

Posteriormente (...) los representantes del Colegio Electoral se reúnen en la capital de su estado para depositar dos votos, uno para el presidente y otro para el vicepresidente. Ese día, para ganar las elecciones el candidato presidencial deberá recibir una mayoría simple, es decir, por lo menos 270 de los 538 votos electorales.



Se da la circunstancia de que, aunque el "elector" de cada partido está comprometido con el sentido del voto ciudadano en su estado (de ahí el nombre de "compromisario"), no está obligado por ley a apoyar al aspirante de su partido. Aparte, se pueden ganar las elecciones sin ser el candidato más votado por el pueblo - ha ocurrido tres veces, la última en 1888 - y acceder a la Casa Blanca habiendo ganado sólo los 11 Estados con mayor número de votos electorales (271) y perdiendo en el resto (...)

NUEVA YORK (del corresponsal de EUROPA PRESS, Emilio López Romero)

La palabra Democracia proviene del término griego DEMOKRATÍA formado por dos conceptos: DEMOS, que significa "pueblo", y KRATOS, que quiere decir "gobierno". Un sistema político democrático es, por tanto, aquel donde "gobierna el pueblo", es decir, donde todas las personas tienen voz y voto en las decisiones que afectan a las cuestiones colectivas.

Hay "democracia directa" cuando las decisiones son adoptadas directamente por todos los miembros de la comunidad. Cuando la sociedad no puede reunir a todos sus miembros para la toma de decisiones, las personas deben delegar esta función. Por ello, cada cierto tiempo en un país democrático se convocan elecciones libres que sirven para que los ciudadanos mayores de edad elijan a sus representantes. Estos formarán el Gobierno y el Parlamento y tomarán decisiones en su nombre.

Este sistema de elección se conoce como "democracia indirecta o representativa". Los sistemas democráticos de gobierno, a diferencia de los sistemas autoritarios, se basan en los valores de igualdad, libertad, justicia y pluralismo, unos valores que nunca acaban de ser una realidad porque hay muchos intereses y presiones que crean trabas.



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INFORMACIÓ I RESERVA

cinemaperestudiants@cinemacultural.es
Telf. 935403698 / 660070129. Fax. 935555070

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