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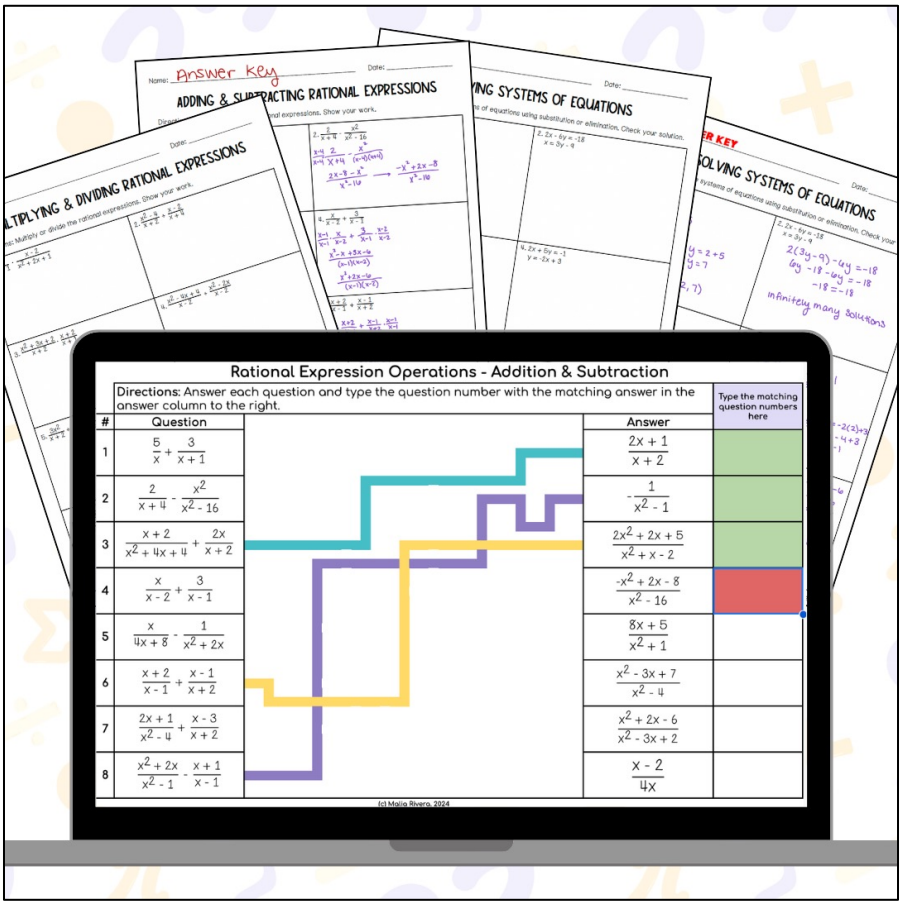

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ELECTION DAY ERROR ANALYSIS TEACHER DIRECTIONS

In this activity, students act as votes deciding which “candidate” solved each math problem correctly. Each Voting Booth question includes two candidates who show different solutions. One is correct and the others contain common errors. Students analyze each candidate’s work, identify the mistake(s), and “vote” for the correct candidate on their ballot sheet.

Materials Needed:

- Printed task cards or posters (Voting Booth questions)
- Ballot sheets (1 per student)
- Tape - if opting to display questions as posters
- Clipboards or notebooks (optional)
- Optional, but fun: “Ballot Box” for students to ”cast their votes”

Set up:

1. Print & post each Voting Booth question around the classroom or at stations.
2. Print one ballot sheet per student and distribute

How to Use:

- Students move around the room going to each Voting Booth.
- At each Voting Booth, they review all of the candidates’ work.
- They vote for the candidate who solved it correctly and write a quick justification on their ballot.
- Once all problems are complete, students can drop their ballot in the “Ballot box”, if you choose to use one.
- Optional - you can review the correct answers together and tally class results for each question.

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VOTER BOOTH #1

Solve: $x^2 + 5x + 6 = 0$

CANDIDATE: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

$$x^2 + 5x + 6 = 0$$

$$(x + 2)(x + 3) = 0$$

$x = 2$ $\qquad$ $x = 3$

CANDIDATE: THOMAS JEFFERSON

$$x^2 + 5x + 6 = 0$$

$$(x + 2)(x + 3) = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} x + 2 &= 0 \\ -2 \quad &-2 \end{aligned} \qquad \begin{aligned} x + 3 &= 0 \\ -3 \quad &-3 \end{aligned}$$

$x = -2$ $\qquad$ $x = -3$

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VOTER BOOTH #2

Solve: $x^2 - 4x - 5 = 0$

CANDIDATE: STEVE JOBS

$a = 1, b = 4, c = -5$

$$x = \frac{-(-4) \pm \sqrt{(-4)^2 - 4(1)(-5)}}{2(1)}$$

$$x = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{16 + 20}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{36}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{36}}{2}$$

$x = -1, 5$

CANDIDATE: JEFF BEZOS

$a = 1, b = 4, c = -5$

$$x = \frac{-(-4) + \sqrt{(-4)^2 - 4(1)(-5)}}{2(1)}$$

$$x = \frac{4 + \sqrt{16 + 20}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{4 + \sqrt{36}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{4 + 6}{2}$$

$x = 5$

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VOTER BOOTH #3

Solve: $x^2 + 6x + 5 = 0$

CANDIDATE: TRAVIS KELCE

$$x^2 + 6x + 5 = 0$$

$$x^2 + 6x = -5$$

$$x^2 + 6x + 9 = -5$$

$$(x + 3)^2 = -5$$

$$\sqrt{(x + 3)^2} = \sqrt{-5}$$

$$x + 3 = \pm 5i$$
$$-3 \quad -3$$

$$x = -3 \pm 5i$$

CANDIDATE: JOSH ALLEN

$$x^2 + 6x + 5 = 0$$

$$x^2 + 6x = -5$$

$$x^2 + 6x + 9 = -5 + 9$$

$$(x + 3)^2 = 4$$

$$\sqrt{(x + 3)^2} = \sqrt{4}$$

$$x + 3 = \pm 2$$
$$-3 \quad -3$$

$$x = -5, -1$$

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VOTER BOOTH #4

Solve: $2x^2 + 7x + 3 = 0$

CANDIDATE: SPIDERMAN

$$2x^2 + 7x + 3 = 0$$

$$(2x + 1)(x + 3) = 0$$

$$2x + 1 = 0 \qquad x + 3 = 0$$

$$-1 \quad -1 \qquad -3 \quad -3$$

$$\frac{2x = -1}{2} \qquad x = 3$$

$$x = -1/2$$

CANDIDATE: HULK

$$2x^2 + 7x + 3 = 0$$

$$(2x + 3)(x + 1) = 0$$

$$2x + 3 = 0 \qquad x + 1 = 0$$

$$-3 \quad -3 \qquad -1 \quad -1$$

$$\frac{2x = -3}{2} \qquad x = -1$$

$$x = -3/2$$

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VOTER BOOTH #5

Solve: $x^2 + 2x + 5 = 0$

CANDIDATE: NELSON MANDELA

$a = 1, b = 2, c = 5$

$$x = \frac{-(2) \pm \sqrt{2^2 - 4(1)(5)}}{2(1)}$$

$$x = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{4 - 20}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{-16}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{4 \pm 4i}{2}$$

$$x = -1 \pm 2i$$

CANDIDATE: MAHATMA GANDHI

$$\text{discriminant} = \sqrt{(2)^2 - 4(1)(5)}$$

$$\text{discriminant} = -16$$

Since the discriminant is negative, there is **no solution.**

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VOTER BOOTH #6

Solve: $4x^2 + 12x + 9 = 0$

CANDIDATE: TAYLOR SWIFT

$$4x^2 + 12x + 9 = 0$$

$$(2x + 3)^2 = 0$$

$$\sqrt{(2x + 3)^2} = \sqrt{0}$$

$$2x + 3 = 0$$
$$\quad -3 \quad -3$$
$$\frac{2x = -3}{2}$$

$$x = -3/2$$

CANDIDATE: CHARLIE XCX

$$x = \frac{-12 \pm \sqrt{(12)^2 - 4(4)(9)}}{2(4)}$$

$$x = \frac{-12 \pm \sqrt{144 - 144}}{8}$$

$$x = \frac{-12 \pm 0}{8}$$

$$x = -3/2, 3/2$$

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CAST YOUR VOTE!

Name: _____

Date: _____ Class: _____

VOTER BOOTH #1	VOTER BOOTH #4
VOTER BOOTH #2	VOTER BOOTH #5
VOTER BOOTH #3	VOTER BOOTH #6

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CREDITS

THANK YOU TO ALL THE AMAZING ARTISTS FOR THEIR BEAUTIFUL DESIGN ELEMENTS IN THIS RESOURCE!

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