Delve Deeper into “Election Day”
A film by Katy Chevigny

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Rebecca Federman of the New York Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary “Election Day,” that premieres on July 1st, 2008 at 10 PM (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

Forget the pie charts, color-coded maps and hyperventilating pundits. What’s the street-level experience of voters in today’s America? In a triumph of documentary storytelling, “Election Day” combines 11 stories — shot simultaneously on November 2, 2004, from dawn until long past midnight — into one. Factory workers, ex-felons, harried moms, Native American activists and diligent poll watchers, from South Dakota to Florida, take the process of democracy into their own hands. The result is an entertaining, inspiring and sometimes unsettling story of citizens determined to vote on one fateful day. A co-production of Independent Television Service (ITVS).

ADULT NONFICTION


Campbell, Tracy. Deliver the Vote: A History of Election Fraud, an American Political Tradition. Basic Books, 2006. Discusses the imperfections, past and present, within the American election system while asking how fraud has persisted within it.


ADULT FICTION


Downing, Sybil. The Vote: A Novel. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006. A novel about a sheltered young woman who puts her life and love on the line by supporting the National Women’s Party.

Greenfield, Jeff. The People’s Choice. New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1995. When the President dies just days after the election, the Vice President-Elect is ready to fill his shoes, until someone starts probing at the procedural issues.


Penn Warren, Robert. All the King’s Men. Harvest Books, 1996. Loosely based on the life of Governor Huey Long of Louisiana, this book tells the story of a southern politician who builds support with his mass appeal and dirty politics, but at a very high price.

CHILDREN’S NONFICTION

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Getman, Dan. The Kid Who Ran for President. New York: Scholastic, 1996. Judson Moon attempts to become President of the United States. The problem is that he is only twelve years old.


Sisulu, Elinor. The Day Gogo Went to Vote. Boston: Little Brown, 1996. Gogo is one hundred years old and in poor health, but nothing will stop her on the first Election Day that black South Africans are allowed to vote.

Stier, Catherine. If I Ran for President. Albert Whitman & Company, 2007. Six children take turns explaining different aspects of the election process from deciding to run to Inauguration Day.

McCully, Emily Arnold. The Ballot Box Battle. Dragonfly Books, 1998. The story of Cordelia, a little girl who looks up to and is inspired by her neighbor, Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

**FILMS**


Primary Colors (1998) Dir: Mike Nichols. Based on the Joe Klein novel of the same name, this film follows a suave governor on the way to the White House.


Wag the Dog (1998) Dir: Barry Levinson. With the election soon approaching and a potential presidential sex scandal about to break, the campaign secures a little help from Hollywood to divert attention.