

The Grand Old Flock

A Freeform by Shawn Stokes, for 6 players and a facilitator

The Grand Old Flock is a politically themed, satirical freeform centered around the tumultuous political landscape of the past year in the United States. It is intended to be a silly, mocking, nonsensical game, though it may ring painfully true at times! Oh, and everyone is a bird.

Materials

- Notecards
- Tokens of some variety
- Stands or chairs (for mock podiums)
- Cups (one for each player)
- Sticky notes
- Table
- One cutout of each Bird role
- Party poppers (optional for end)
- Nametags



Setup

This game takes place in two phases - picking your nominees and a debate! There is light prep for a facilitator, mostly in knowing how to prep the moderator and getting the materials. The facilitator (or inspired player) takes on the role of moderator - you are The Bird's voice and will be gathering topics to press your debaters on. Before your "candidate" enter in, be sure to designate a stage (with the mock podiums) and place the table in front of it. Set up a cup with a sticky note attached to it with each player's bird name on it.

Warmup

Facilitator - pass out a bird to each player. After taking a moment to study their character sheets, have everyone close their eyes and imagine themselves as their bird. Tell them to stand like their birds, open their eyes and walk around as their birds. Give them some short scenarios to do - finding shelter, sharing food, etc. They don't have to work together, but just remind them - this is their flock. Spend about 5 minutes on this, then give each of them their corresponding roles. Have them walk around and introduce themselves and say their slogans and talk about how their Grand Old Flock is in danger and needs to be saved. Give them another 5 minutes, then pull them into the **Nomination** phase. Pass out the candidates' tokens, but tell the players they all have 3 tokens each (refer to their character sheets for their real amounts).

Nominating our "Candidates"

FOWL PLAY: when the candidates are mingling between the Moderator interviews, they can wheel and deal plans to their fellow birds. They can do verbal deals, or make real deals by trading their tokens - offer pledges and support for tokens. Whatever deals you come to, a proper bird always follows through (you hope!). Remember - even if you can't win, you can always shoot for a better job!

Moderator, here are some things you can do to push your "candidate":

INTERVIEW: Pick out a potential candidate and put them on the stage. This is live TV, so they better be ready! Here are some topics:

- The Great Bird War -Nest Laying Rights -Migrant Birds
- Dangerous Animal Protections -Cats, cats everywhere -Declining Bird Baths
- Rising Bird Home Costs -Fill in your own ideas!

RUMORS: Tell a "candidate" a rumor, spin the truth or lies said by someone else. The Birds want to see these "candidates" under pressure!.. Rr they just want a good zinger.

After some time, if things start to cool down, have the birds vote for their nominees - only those who had a lot cast in their cup will make it to the debate! And yes, you can vote for yourself! Choice is good right? Have the players take their tokens (or whatever's left) and put them in their corresponding cups. The Moderator counts and sends up the winners. Move on to **The Debate!**

The Debate

The time has come! Anyone who wasn't voted for now becomes a Moderator. Take a minute to peruse the info you've gathered and frame a few questions. When you're ready, choose someone to announce to the "candidates":

"For the good of the Grand Old Flock, we now begin our debate! We have 30 minutes to decide who will lead the Grand Old Flock. We will decide who leads when that time is up."

Nominees - Answer the questions, call out the lies, and stand up for the Grand Old Flock! You're so close to saving everyone, stand up for your ideals! This really is a no-holds-barred throwdown, so let 'em have it!

Moderators - Get through all the questions you can, and pin down the "candidates'" ideas. Make them be clear about their ideas, and interrupt them as needed. Remind them about your vote and push them to speak truthfully.

When the time is up, cast your vote. Write it on a notecard and hold it up. In the event of a tie, Rock Paper Scissors wins out with the conflicting voters. Announce the winner for all of the Flock to hear! This marks the end of the game.

Debrief

Leave the play space, have everyone circle up and close their eyes and breath deeply for a count of 10. With each breath, exhale you're character. Shake it out. Now, discuss the game.

-check in, ask how everyone is doing.

-What was play like, was it fun?

-Did you all come to the consensus you wanted?

-The future of the flock - what's that looking like?

-Thank everyone for playing!

Bird Roles (cut out)



PARROT - loud, boisterous, talks a lot 4 tokens (Rich Family and favors)

An outsider to the flocks norm, but birds like you and you love the attention. Take birds' good ideas and turn them into your own. Birds say good things about you, you hear. Repeat them, a lot. Talk loud and proud, you don't know much about this "politics" but these birds put you here, so you're definitely the best choice. You know these birds are all of the same feather - you just gotta dig up the dirt - or make it up!



SEN. RAVEN - low tones, "gets too close", talks in riddles 3 tokens

You've been serving the flock for years - and you know you're disliked greatly. You speak for the "old flockers" that make up the true core of the flock. You see the truth in the clouds, and you know nobody here knows the "true path". You take whatever chance you can to smear your fellow birds and further your agenda. They say your family was involved in conspiracies, but don't let them tread on your good family name!



GOV. DUCK - timid, worried 2 tokens

You come from a family of leaders, and now it's your turn. You've helped lead the flock on smaller levels, leading smaller groups on the long flights around. You're rather plain, and lack some confidence, but people see your family in you and follow you. The feeling you have is one of just having to show up to win. Let them mock you - slow and steady wins the race.



REP. JAY - measured, experienced. 2 Tokens

You've been serving the flock for a long time and flown under the radar. You see a chance to further your name and figured people will go with "the sensible choice". You've helped these birds make homes and find food for years. Who cares that you supported the great bird war? Your birds have roles and better lives now - better than these others can say. At least everyone knows you, kinda?



DR. DOVE - quiet, intelligent, lost in thought. 3 tokens

You're probably the smartest one in the room - even though you probably have the least experience. You're colleges said you'd make a good flock leader, and you're kinda the "people's choice", right? Taking a calm, intellectual approach should make for a good shot. You tend to get scatterbrained being so lost in thought all the time - take your time, nobody is judging.



GOV. PIGEON - overly confident, follower. 3 tokens

You don't really want this job, you're just looking for someone to follow. You don't have much of a spine for leadership, but you do want to find someone to work for. Find someone to work for - that Parrot looks pretty awesome. So confident and says all the right things. Maybe that's bad? Or maybe it's just right! Just be sure to throw someone under the bus - that's how you make friends.