Presidential Candidates’ Position Research Assignment

Due Tuesday, October 18

Worth 25 points

OBJECTIVE:

* Students will identify and research candidates’ positions on key policy issues.
* Students will use Presidential candidates’ websites to answer the research questions.
* Students will evaluate the views of the candidates and compare them to their own views.
* Students will answer the guided research questions in writing.

OVERVIEW:

* Using the websites listed below, students will research and evaluate candidates for the 2016 Presidential Election based on their positions on key policy issues.  Through watching clips of candidate speeches, students will determine the candidates’ position on the economy, foreign policy, health care, immigration, and more. Then, students will compare and contrast the candidates’ views with their own views.

RESEARCH:

Step 1

Students will research the positions of the Presidential candidates through watching the videos from the C-SPAN Video Library (<https://www.c-span.org/>) and/or Campaign 2016 website (<https://www.c-span.org/series/?campaign2016>). Students can also view each candidate’s campaign website for more information on each issue.

1. Students can complete the research individually, in small groups, or as homework.
2. The research should be based on how **three of the four candidates** view the issues listed on the following page.

These are the main candidates’ websites. Their purpose is to raise money for their campaign and educate voters on their positions. *Do not donate money on these websites or give them information about yourself. Exit out of any pop-up windows that may appear asking you for a donation, or modify the URL address to return to the main page (sometimes you can just remove “/donate” at the end of the URL).*

<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/>

<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/splash/eoq/>

<http://www.jill2016.com/>

<https://www.johnsonweld.com/>

Step 2

Students will describe the candidates’ positions by filling out the issues grid below. This should be completed for **three of the four candidates**.

Candidate #1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Economy and Jobs | Taxes and Deficit |
| National Security | Health Care |
| Immigration | Energy and Environment |

Candidate #2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Economy and Jobs | Taxes and Deficit |
| National Security | Health Care |
| Immigration | Energy and Environment |

Candidate #3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Economy and Jobs | Taxes and Deficit |
| National Security | Health Care |
| Immigration | Energy and Environment |

Step 3

Once the research is completed, students should answer the following research summary questions. Each response should be 1-2 paragraphs long, typed.

**Candidate Research Summary Questions**

1. Based on your research, explain which issue you think is the most important and which issue is the least important. You can rank the issues from 1-6 with 1 being the most important, and 6 being the least important. Explain your ranking.
2. Which candidate did you agree with on the greatest number of issues?
3. Which candidate did you agree with on the least number of issues?
4. Is there one issue that is a “deal breaker” for you (The candidate MUST agree with you on it, or there is no way you would support the candidate)? Explain.
5. Based on your research, which candidate would you be most likely to support if the election was held today? Explain.
6. Now that you have done your research, which issue(s) do you wish each candidate addressed more thoroughly? Explain what more the candidates could have elaborated on.