



Summer Learning 2016

Humanities

US History

Mr. Newman

ENTERING US History

Purpose: To engage in deeper analysis regarding the upcoming Presidential election both in terms of the Constitutional process by which the country elects a president and the candidates that are the nominees of the political party.

Goal: To emerge with a better understanding of the complexities of this particular election with specific attention paid to the issues that you think are most important. You should remain mindful of the role of the party system, and the importance of a “campaign war chest”. All the while, considering the veracity of the American maxim “in America, anyone can become president”.

Assignment:

Through independent research, develop a list of no more than three relevant issues that you believe should determine the outcome of the election. What will the outcome of the election be? Why? You will need to balance what is most important to you with what is most important to the future of the country.

To consider:

- 1) Which issues have the greatest impact on my life?
- 2) Which issues are relevant for the immediate future?
- 3) Which issues are relevant for the foreseeable future?
- 4) Which candidate will have the greatest, positive, impact with regard to the above?

Further: Experts have determined that six attributes are essential for a president to be effective:

- Vision
- Charisma
- Pragmatism
- Consensus Builder
- Trust and Credibility
- Luck

As you work through the assignment, determine which candidate best reflects the qualities listed above and why.

NB. Watch the evening news, The Daily Show, CNN, Fox News, Sunday Talk shows (i.e. Meet the Press, et. al.). I guarantee this will not cause any permanent damage and will provide myriad points of view from professional analysts to help you formulate your opinions.