

# Kid Reporters: Election Topic Suggestions for 3rd – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

You may tweak any of these topic suggestions to fit the type of writing that interests you! For example, if a challenge asks you for your opinion (editorial piece) on health care, you may turn it into a hard news piece. In your hard news piece you could explain health care and the different party's position on it. In a human interest piece, you could interview someone personally affected by the current health care program and tell the reader that person's story

## **1. If you could vote in this election, which issues would be most important to you and why?**

Keep in Mind:

- Give accurate and sufficient background information
- Explain clearly!
- Use quotations to make a better article
- Cite (identify the source of) everything that is not your own thought

## **2. The legal age to vote in the United States is 18. Do you think that this is an appropriate age. Explain why or why not.**

Keep in Mind:

- Give accurate and sufficient background information to strengthen your argument (e.g. what other things can you do legally before the age of 18)
- Use quotations to make a better article
- Explain your information clearly Cite everything!

## **3. Welfare is an important issue to many people in this election.. Do you think the government should play a role in helping citizens in need? If so, what might that role be?**

Keep in Mind:

- Give accurate and sufficient background information (e.g. brief of history of welfare laws that have been passed, or previous debates on topic)
- Explain clearly
- Use quotations to make a better article
- Cite everything that is not your own thought

## **4. If you had five minutes with the President, what would you say or ask him?**

**5. Do you think the media (TV, radio, internet, newspapers) effects the election? Does the media just help us formulate our own opinion or does it influence our opinion?**

Keep in Mind:

- Give accurate and sufficient background information Explain clearly Use quotations to make a better article Cite everything that is not your own thought

Hard News: Write this article as a small research paper. Explain how different forms of media have been used throughout history to influence public perception. Give examples, background, and quotations to support your article.

**6. Literacy in the United States has been in a decline. What do you think the President could and should do help students struggling with literacy issues?**

**7. Who do you think should win the Presidential election and why?**

**8. Gun control has been a huge topic of debate. Should individuals in the U.S. continue to be allowed to own and carry their own guns? Should guns or certain types of guns be banned? Should the government control the use of guns, and if so, how?**

Hard News: What are the current laws on gun ownership, purchase, and control? What are the proposed changes? How do Republicans and Democrats differ on this issue?