



Name _____

Date: _____

Course: US History/Ms. Brown

Homeroom:



7th Grade US History
Standard # – Do Now – Day #36

Aims: SWBAT describe three key points for two platforms (economy, healthcare, education, or foreign policy) for the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates.

DO NOW

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete and historically accurate sentences. You must attempt each question, there should be absolutely no blank spaces. Be sure to provide examples and evidence to support your answers.

How do voters decide between candidates on election day? There are many different things that people consider when voting; some seem silly and some make sense Check the things YOU would do or want to know about the candidates before making your final decision in the voting booth.

1. Listen to both candidates' speeches
2. Find out what kind of pet s/he owns
3. Watch a debate between the candidates
4. Decide how you feel about the issues
5. Find out...
 1. The candidates' favorite sport
 2. If the candidates have kids
 3. What the candidates did before he or she ran for office
 4. The candidates' voting records

Pick ONE thing that you checked and share why you think it is helpful in choosing a candidate

Pick ONE thing that you did not check and share why you think it isn't helpful in choosing a candidate



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Intro to New Material Candidate Evaluation

Step One: What do you think? It is hard to evaluate where a candidate stands on an **issue**, or topic, if you don't know what you stand for! Comparing your opinions with the opinions of the candidates is a great way to get started. Check *three* issues you care about on the first page of notes and three qualities you look for in a candidate on the second sheet.

Three issues I care about:

- Education
- The Environment
- The Economy
- Crime
- Healthcare
- Taxes
- Children's Issues
- Animal Rights
- Other: _____

Three qualities I look for in a candidate:

- Good Communicator
- Brave
- Intelligent
- Creative
- Experienced Leader
- Cooperative
- Honest
- Trustworthy
- Other: _____

Step Two: Research the Candidates Create a library of information on each candidate.

Step Three: Learn about leadership skills and qualifications How can you tell someone will be a good leader or if they are qualified for the job?

Step Four: Find out what other people think Hearing the opinions of others can help you clarify your own views on the candidates.

Step Five: Grade the candidates and decide! After you have done all the research it is time to pull all the information together.



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Mini-lesson

II. Read the platforms and compare candidates

During the election season voters are flooded with messages for and by the candidates. Take a look at the messages from the two candidates and discover where they stand. Be sure to annotate as you read.

Health Care

In 2010, nearly 50 million Americans did not have health insurance. More than 7 million of the uninsured were children. Insurance helps people pay for doctor visits, prescription drugs, hospital stays and other care. Some people get health insurance at a reduced rate through their employers. Others have to buy it, often at a high rate. The cost of health insurance continues to rise, and many people just can't afford it.



President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law March 23, 2010. It states that all Americans must have health insurance or else pay a penalty beginning in 2014. Supporters say the law will help make health insurance affordable for everyone. Critics say the law will cost insurance companies money and will raise health care costs.

* **Barack Obama's** Affordable Care Act makes health coverage available for everyone and works to protect consumers from insurance abuse. He believes that Americans should be allowed to make health insurance choices that work for them. Obama believes the act provides new ways to bring down costs and improve quality of care. The act:

- Gives people with Medicare access to free preventive services to detect medical conditions early.
- Allows young adults under age 26 to stay on a parent's health insurance plan.

* **Mitt Romney** believes that the federal government should not require citizens to have health insurance. He says he will repeal the Affordable Care Act. Here are some of his ideas:

- Replace the Affordable Care law with policies that give each state power to create its own health care plan.
- Give consumers more choice in health insurance by allowing them to purchase insurance from a different state.

Summary – 1 fact/claim about the plan and 2 pieces of evidence – what do the Democrats want?	Summary – 1 fact/claim about the plan and 2 pieces of evidence – what do the Republicans want?
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



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Education



* **Barack Obama** believes in federal help for students who can't afford college. He urges states to have high standards in public schools and develop new programs for students. Obama wants to improve early education and the participation of America's students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Here are some of his ideas:

- Give necessary training and skills to teachers. Reward them for good work so they can further education.
- Give hardworking students who aren't yet American citizens a chance to earn their citizenship.

-Change laws so students must repay their loans at only

10% of their income. Support teachers by forgiving any remaining loan balance after 10 years of service.

* **Mitt Romney** believes parents should have more choices in how their kids receive an education, whether from a public, private, charter or online school. He also supports reducing the federal government's role in education, testing students and rewarding talented teachers. Here are some of his ideas:

- Make federal funds for low-income and special-needs students moveable, so that their families can choose which school to attend.
- Require states to eliminate caps on charter schools and online schools.
- Give parents better information about how schools are performing through school district "report cards."

Summary – 1 fact/claim about the plan and 2 pieces of evidence – what do the Democrats want?	Summary – 1 fact/claim about the plan and 2 pieces of evidence – what do the Republicans want?



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Defense

* **Barack Obama** believes in cutting down on defense spending, which includes cuts to the U.S. military. In 2008, the President’s plan brought home more than 142,000 U.S. troops who were serving in Iraq. He wants to continue to cut down on military costs in Iraq and Afghanistan. Here are some of his plans for defense:



-Stop defense programs that are not performing and that are over-budget. Make sure taxpayer dollars are only used to buy what the nation reasonably needs, while making technology available to meet goals.

-Work with China, Russia and other nations to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

-Improve the lives of military veterans and their families. Work with companies to make sure veterans can find work when they come home from war.

* **Mitt Romney** believes in rebuilding military strength with government spending. As President, he would reverse Obama’s defense cuts and attempt to get more out of taxpayer dollars. Romney supported the Iraq war and wants to maintain military presence in the Middle East. Here are some of his plans for defense:

-Increase the strength of the armed forces, including the number of troops and U.S. Navy warships.

-Expand missile defense systems, the network of unmanned weapons that can respond to an attack by a hostile country or group without sending troops to enemy territory.

-Reverse President Obama’s defense cuts to set basic defense spending at 4% of the GDP (gross domestic product).

One sentence summary – what do Democrats want?	One sentence summary – what do Republicans want?
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



Take a Stand on the Issues

Directions: Complete the sentence starters below about the Democrats' and Republicans' platforms and state which plans you most agree with and why. Be sure to use evidence from the reading to support your answer.

- Position (which party's plan do you support)
- Two pieces of evidence from the text
- Analysis (how does this plan make life better for you and your family?)

EXAMPLE: *I agree with the Republican economic plan more the Democrats' plan because Mitt Romney believes that government should be smaller and more organized. One of his key plans is to reduce government spending for some programs and merge (connect) certain government departments so they are more effective. Secondly, Mitt Romney wants to encourage more people to have businesses and give businesses more freedom to make more money. This plan would be more beneficial to me because I hope to open a business one day, and with less government rules it would be easier for me to start a successful business and make money.*

I agree with the _____ healthcare plan more than the _____ plan because _____

This plan would be more beneficial to me because _____

I agree with the _____ education plan more than the _____ plan because _____

This plan would be more beneficial to me because _____

I agree with the _____ defense plan more than the _____ plan because _____

This plan would be more beneficial to me because _____



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Get Out the Vote Script!

Tomorrow we're getting out the vote! We need to make sure as many people's voices are heard as possible! How can we encourage other people to vote?

Step 1: Two students working as partners identify the grown up they would like to approach and "okay" the grown up with their teacher. Teacher gives okay.

Step 2: Two students smile, make eye contact, and approach the grown up.

Step 3:

Student 1: Good morning. Excuse us. May we ask for a moment of your time?
(grown up will probably say yes.)

Student 2: I am _____ and this is _____ and we are scholars at Democracy Prep Harlem. We are in the 7th grade.

Student 1: We believe voting is one of the most important things that you can do to help to change the world and have your voice heard. We can't vote because we are too young.

Student 2: (Hands over blue pamphlet) We can't vote yet – but you can!!

Student 1: Please make sure to vote TODAY in the General Election and to make sure your voice is heard!

Student 2: Thank you for your time – have a great day.

Student 1: Don't forget to vote TODAY!!

(If adults engage you in conversation, make sure that you're able to explain at least one stance that **each** candidate has – i.e., talk about the differences between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney on health care, education, or defense)

Step 4:

Students return to chaperoned "group" and look for next grown up to approach.





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EXIT TICKET

_____/5 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

The Steps. Put the steps you have learned about in the correct order

- _____ Find out what other people think
- _____ Research the candidates positions on the issues
- _____ Grade the candidates and decide
- _____ Learn about the candidates' leadership skills and qualifications
- _____ What do you think about things?

2. Choose two of the issues below and explain each candidate's position. Write at least **one sentence** explaining what Barack Obama and Mitt Romney think about the issue.

Issue	Barack Obama	Mitt Romney
A. Health Care		
B. Defense		
C. Education		



Task GOTV SID#



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HOMEWORK

_____/10 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

After looking at these different sources of candidate information, answer the questions below.

1. Which candidate is more likely to appeal to parents with school-age kids? Give at least two reasons you selected this candidate

- Obama
- Romney

Platform 1:

Platform 2:

2. Who would be most likely to support these issues? Put an **O** for Obama and a **R** for Romney

_____ Oil Exploration _____ Increase in Teacher Pay _____ Increased Military Spending
 _____ Immigration Reform _____ Cut Taxes _____ Peace Talks with Enemy Nations





3. Based on what you have learned about the two candidates, create a campaign poster for each. Be sure to include their name, what they support, some images and maybe even a slogan!

A large rectangular frame with eight small square handles at the corners and midpoints of the sides, intended for a student to create a campaign poster.



Democracy Prep Harlem Election Ballot

The voting age has temporarily been lowered to 11 years old, so just for today you can vote for the President of the United States! Circle your vote for President and let your voice be heard.

Candidate	Picture	Vote
President Barack Obama Vice President Joe Biden Democrat		<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor Mitt Romney Representative Paul Ryan Republican		<input type="checkbox"/>

1. Which party did you vote for? _____

2. Why did you choose that candidate? Use at least 2 points from their platform in your answer.
