

## Political Participation Homework Questions

1. Why is suffrage often considered the most important political right for any person to have?
2. Historically, voting rights have expanded over time. Should voting rights continue to expand to groups such as minors, felons/ex-felons, non-citizen residents etc.? Why or why not?
3. How do linkage institutions affect voting patterns?
4. What type of voter are you (or will you be)? Defend your response.
5. How and why do demographics affect voter behavior?
6. Do you think that we need to do more to encourage people to vote? Why or why not?
7. If we assume we do need to encourage more people to vote, what do you think would be the most effective method(s) and why?
8. Evaluate the naturalization process that Congress has created to become a citizen.
9. What is the difference between being illegally registered to vote and illegally voting? Why is this significant?
10. What role can states play in encouraging participation in our democracy? Why is this important?
11. Are political parties necessary for a democracy the size of the United States? Why or why not?
12. Why are political parties decentralized? How do they operate that way?
13. Other democracies have more than two major political parties. What is it about the United States that has kept us a two-party system?
14. Why are third parties significant? Be specific and use examples.
15. What is necessary to have a successful and functional political campaign?
16. What is the difference between hard money and soft money for campaign finance? Be specific.
17. What is the significance of Buckley v. Valeo?
18. What is "dark money" and why is it significant?
19. What do you think is the most effective way for candidates to get on the ballot? Why?
20. Evaluate our process for nominating presidential candidates.
21. Are presidential nominating conventions outdated? Why or why not?
22. What do you think a presidential candidate should look for in a vice-presidential candidate? Why?
23. Evaluate the Electoral College's role in our presidential elections.