**CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS & EVALUATION**

**Part A.** Use the PowerPoint to help you fill in the blanks in the charts below on the qualifications needed to run for office.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | President of the US | US Senate | US House of Representatives |
| Minimum Age: |  |  |  |
| Citizenship Status? |  | Must be a citizen for at least 9 years | Must be a citizen for at least 7 years |
| Residency?  *(where do they live?)* | Live in US for 14 years | Must live in the state they wish to represent | Must live in the state they wish to represent |
| Term Length  (*how long do they serve?)* |  |  |  |
| Term Limits  *(how many times can they be elected?)* |  |  |  |

QUALIFICATIONS FOR FLORIDA STATE OFFICE

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Governor of Florida | Florida State Senate | Florida House of Representatives |
| Minimum Age: |  |  |  |
| Citizenship Status? | Must be a citizen | Must be a citizen | Must be a citizen |
| Residency? | Live in Florida for previous 7 years | Live in FL for previous 2 years and in the district they represent | Live in FL for previous 2 years and in the district they represent |
| Term Length |  |  |  |
| Term Limits |  |  |  |

**EVALUATING CANDIDATES:**

**Part B.** Use the PowerPoint to help you fill in the blanks in the charts below on the areas in which voters should evaluate a candidate running for office. Use the terms listed below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Advertisements | Experience | Debates | Platform |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Areas to evaluate a candidate** | **What questions should we ask?**  **What do we need to know about a candidate?** |
|  | What is their academic background?  What is/was their profession?  What political office(s) have they held in the past? |
|  | What are their ideas about government?  What are their policies on important issues? |
|  | What do they know about the issues?  How informed is the candidate?  How well do they communicate?  Are they likeable? Wise? Professional? |
|  | What do they say about themselves?  What do they say about their opponents?  What do their opponents say about them?  What evidence is provided to support their claims? |

**Part C.** Now that you know what it takes to evaluate a candidate, jump in and use that knowledge! Read each campaign speech and do the following:

* Highlight in **BLUE** the qualifications for the candidate
* Highlight in **RED** any unnecessary facts
* Highlight in **YELLOW** any promises

Then answer the questions below.

**Ted Givens:**

My fellow Americans, I speak to you today about why you should elect me as your next president. First, I want you to know that I love puppies! They are the best kind of pets, and everyone should have one. I promise to give every child in the United States a puppy of their very own!

As the president, I would use my experience as a city mayor to lead the country. Being a mayor required me to be a good speaker, honest, and good at listening to the needs of the public. I know how to run a city – so how much harder could it be to run a country?

I graduated top of my class and went to one of the best colleges in the country. I have three kids and they love me a whole lot. My favorite vegetable is broccoli, and I do not like carrots at all! I really hope that you vote for me so I can be the next president!

**Lucy Jones:**

Welcome, everyone! I am here today to talk to you about why I think I would make the best president ever. I studied government in college, and really understand all of the jobs that the president is required to do. I have served in the Senate for the last six years and all of my fellow senators love me. They even threw me a surprise birthday party last year!

If elected, I promise to do the following: outlaw all yucky foods that kids hate, require teachers to assign video games for homework, and decrease taxes. I also plan on claiming the moon for the United States so no other country can go there.

Before I was elected to be a senator, I worked as a teacher and learned to be creative, patient, and to be a good listener. I love cheese and pickles, and I have two cats. Please vote for me on election day!

**Ben Stevens:**

I am running for president, and you should elect me because I am the best person for the job. Unlike my opponents, I have experience in business, so I know all about what is best for the economy. I successfully have run my own company, and I love ice cream and chocolate.

If I win the election, I will pledge to lower taxes and to have lots of fun as president. Being a good businessman meant that I was good at analyzing data, patient, and hardworking. I did not attend college, but I have real world experience. On top of that, I went to the best summer camp programs ever! I even learned how to make fire by rubbing two sticks together.

I have a dog called Mittens that I walk twice a day, and an iguana. I’m 32 years old, so I know what matters to the younger voters in America. I love sports, and this has taught me the importance of hard work and discipline. Vote for me, and I’ll make sure our country gets the best deal possible!

**QUESTIONS:**

1) What promises did Ted Givens make that were realistic?

2) What promises did Lucy Jones make that were realistic?

3) What promises did Ben Stevens make that were realistic?

4) Which of these three do you think would make the best candidate for president? Why? (Be specific. How did you evaluate them compared to the other candidates?)

5) Which of these three do you think would make the worst candidate for president? Why? (Be specific. How did you evaluate them compared to the other candidates?)