

# *The Right to Vote?*

*Prof. Jonathan Cervas*

*January 17, 2023*

The right to vote is sacred in the United States; or is it? As we will learn over the next several weeks, the voting public has expanded from a narrow set of individuals, to a larger share of residents. But, who is enfranchised has been contested throughout U.S. history, including in modern America.

## *Directions*

Open a blank text file. Type:

- 1) your name,
- 2) today's date,
- 3) "Voting Rights and Representation", and
- 4) "Assignment 1" on three consecutive lines.

Answer the prompt below.

## *Question 1 (90 seconds)*

In 2024, the U.S. will hold a presidential election. But not everyone *can* or *should* be allowed to participate. Make a list of *at most ten* individuals, classes of people, or groups which should **not** be allowed to vote.

## *Discussion*

How does your list compare to those seated next to you? Compare your list to 3-5 other students.

Are there any individuals or groups that everyone has included on this list?

Do you have unique entries on your list? Discuss with your group why you think there is some agreement and some that differ.

For those where there is less agreement, contemplate why either they, or you, believe this group should not be given the right to vote in the presidential election.

Are there other context in which this list would change? Would the same exclusions apply for state-level elections, like for governor? How about local elections, such as school board?