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COMM1313-SEC013

Informative Outline

Topic: The US Natural-Born-Citizen Clause (NBCC) of the Constitution

General Purpose: To define the NBCC and explain how and why it exists

Specific Purpose: To educate the class about what the NBCC is, how it came to be, and what purpose it serves today

Thesis Statement: The US Natural-Born-Citizen Clause states that any non-natural-born citizen of the US is not eligible to run for president

**Introduction:**

(Gain attention) – The Constitution: we all know it exists, but how many of us have read it?

(Reveal topic, orient audience) – Buried deep in the flowery vocabulary of the Constitution is a clause that essentially determines who is, and who is not, eligible to be President of the United States.

(Credibility/Goodwill) –I had heard of this clause before, just like most of you probably have. But I’d always heard it paraphrased.

1. I started to wonder if maybe I was missing something about the eligibility law itself. Who, legally, can and cannot be president? How specific is the Constitution about that law anyways? I decided to hit the books and get my questions answered.

(Significance) – This law is something that was the backbone for our democracy for centuries. We, the people, need to know about the laws we follow, especially those that literally dictate who can and cannot lead us. An uneducated public is the easiest to exploit, so let’s get educated.

(Preview) – Not only do we need to know what this clause is in detail, we all deserve to know how the founding fathers decided to put it in, as well as what purpose it serves for us today.

**Body (Topical Organizational Structure):**

1. Article II Section 1 Clause 5 of the Constitution states that “No Person except a natural-born Citizen…shall be eligible to the Office of President.”
   1. This is what we refer to as The NBCC.
   2. The Constitution never defines the term “natural-born citizen.”
      1. We take it to mean any person that was born in the United States, since a similar clause was used in 1800-era Britain. It also applies to people who were born outside of the United States, but to one or more parents who are US Citizens.
2. The Natural-Born-Citizen Clause came about because the founders of the constitution were afraid of foreign influence.
3. Today, the Natural-Born-Citizen Clause is being referenced even in today’s world.
   1. Ted Cruz’s eligibility for president was attacked by Donald Trump in a GOP debate.
      1. Cruz was born in Canada. This is the basis for Trump’s line of questioning. However, Cruz was born to a mother who was a US Citizen, so he is legally eligible for presidency.

**Conclusion:**

(Summarize/Tie points together) – The Natural-Born-Citizen Clause of the Constitution is meant to protect the United States from foreign influence, even today, by regulating who is and is not eligible for presidency.

(Final point/Audience, think about…) – Now that you know about how our government judges eligibility for the Office of President, I’d like you to ask yourselves if this clause protects you, as individuals, the way the founding fathers thought it would.

(Completeness feeling) – I hope I’ve left you today with a greater knowledge of our presidency eligibility process.

**Works Cited**

Hamilton, Alexander (March 14, 1788). "The Federalist Papers No. 68, "The Mode of Electing the President""*. Retrieved March 11, 2016*.

U.S. Constitution: Article 2, Section 1, Clause 5: Natural-Born Citizen Clause.

Savage, David G. "Is Ted Cruz, Born in Canada, Eligible for the Presidency? Legal Experts Say Yes." *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles Times, 8 Jan. 2016. Web. 11 Mar. 2016.