

Dear fellow students in our partner schools

We'd like to address all young people who care for world peace, and we hope to inspire more young people to take interest in world affairs. The topic we chose for our little case study is **the United States presidential election 2016** as our group is into politics and we're a bit worried about the future now that Donald Trump is in charge of the most powerful country in the world.

We posed the following questions:

1. What are the main reasons for Donald Trump getting elected as the 45th president of the USA?
2. Which political views does Mr. Trump hold?
3. Does Barack Obama carry any responsibility for the outcome of the election 2016?

Question 1

One of the most important things why Mr. Trump won so many votes is his ability to promote himself aggressively to wider audiences and to run effective presidential campaigns online. No matter how ridiculously dumb they were, Trump knew how to reach and convince those sitting on the fence. Moreover, being a brilliant "mind controller", Trump simply thrived on manipulating large crowds anywhere.

Another reason why Trump won against his opponent seems to have been the FBI interfering with Hillary Clinton's campaign in the final two weeks of the election. She was blamed for mishandling confidentiality rules as her private emails contained classified information. As Trump took immediate action, he won over even more fence-sitting voters.

The third reason is allegedly related to Russia. According to the US government, Russian hackers had gained access to the computers of the Democratic National Committee and other political organizations of the Democratic Party. Some people even claim that the Russian government had been paying for so called “troll farms” to spread fake news about Trump’s opponent.

Question 2

Although Trump represents the Republican Party, he is a businessman, first and foremost. The following two quotes illustrate his way of thinking rather well:

- *I like thinking big. If you’re going to be thinking anything, you might as well THINK BIG.*
- *If you don’t believe in yourself, no one else will. Without passion you don’t have energy; without energy, you have nothing. Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion.*

Trump is a right-wing populist who believes that his experience as a private company consultant helps him to improve American economy a great deal. He supports the idea of deporting immigrants currently living in the US in order to create more jobs for the host nation. He also wants to limit foreign trade, for example the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Chinese imports to “put America first”.

Question 3

We’re not quite sure if Mr. Trump has to thank Barack Obama for his big victory. However, *The Guardian* argues that Mr. Obama did choose to help the financial industry rather than his people during the financial crisis in 2009. Also, many people are angry at Obama about “Obamacare” (the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010), which not only has advantages but also serious disadvantages. Besides, the Democrats have supposedly lost a true connection to those loyal to the party.

But we know that Obama did many things to make America better. Being the first African-American president he decreased racism. Moreover, he was successful in using military diplomacy to assure a safer world into the future. He also ordered all U.S. forces out of Iraq and Afghanistan, which ended the long-standing war. Osama Bin Laden was killed under Obama's presidency. As far as the environment is concerned, he made monumental contributions to prevent climate change and air pollution, and imposed fuel-efficiency standards.

How did we do as a group?

Now we understand better how to gather data so that we get hold of truly valuable information. It can be difficult as there are so many information channels. Moreover, as we're in our first year in gymnasium, it's only natural that understanding texts written for native speakers can be quite a challenge. Anyway, we'll need to start working hard on our English vocabulary because ours is not enough to cope with all these new words we've never heard before.

What we've learned is how to work as a team. It was interesting not only because we had to prepare for the presentation, but also because we truly cared. Thank you.



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