

Information Book Awards 2019: Category 12–16

Usborne Politics for beginners by Alex Frith, Rosie Hore and Louie Stowell

English

- Look at persuasive language used during election campaigns – maybe gather election leaflets that come through the door. Write your own election campaign leaflet using persuasive language for a current or past political party.
- Debate from differing viewpoints – e.g. for and against Brexit/should voting in the UK start at 16?
- Identify differences between political parties and their policies. Decide which one you would vote for and why. Write a persuasive essay.
- Look at famous or local politicians. Write a biography of a chosen politician.
- Imagine you're making your own political party – write your manifesto.
- How does the media represent politics including social media e.g. Twitter. Look at reports of Fake news and how you can tell if news is fake and discuss the reasons for creating it. Look at how different media outlets use bias and investigate the political leanings of a newspaper, e.g. The Sun, The Guardian. Compare articles on similar topics and identify the bias words used (emotional language). See page 109.

PSHE

- How do elections work? Run a vote in class. Discuss the differences between majority rule and proportional representation. Which system seems fairer? See page 66-67.
- Feminism/diversity in politics. When did women get the vote and how are minorities being represented in parliament. Look at current MPs and debate whether all members of UK society are adequately represented and if not, what can be done to change this? See pages 112-113.
- Immigration – should it be controlled? Discuss the benefits of immigration and look at tolerance and acceptance. Think about the routes some immigrants took to get here to develop empathy.
- Does war solve problems, or create more? Examples of “just wars” e.g. WW2 (immediate threat), or an unjust war, e.g. Invasion of Iraq on the premise of Weapons of Mass Destruction when none were found and the destabilisation of the area since. Have a look at page 98.
- Difference between local and national government in the UK. How do councils work and local elections differ from national elections? Visit the local council house and how tax payer money is being spent in the local region.

- Should politics be decentralised, e.g. less power in Westminster and more power to the regions. Would this be a fairer way of running the country?
- Look at the section on Human Rights on page 96. Are these important and should all countries sign up to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights?

History/Geography

- Investigate different types of government throughout British history. Which do you prefer?
- How does US democracy differ from UK democracy? See page 42-43.
- Difference between an ancient Greek democracy and democracy today. Refer to page 14.
- Report on a non-democratic government and examine differences, e.g. Communist parties in Eastern Europe/Soviet Union during the 20th century how these countries are governed differently today.
- Climate change – how should the world tackle climate change? Discuss reasons why there are climate change deniers and what governments should do to prevent it. How do protests raise awareness? Discuss recent unusual severe weather events, e.g. Californian wildfires and powerful hurricanes. Are these being caused by climate change? How can they be mitigated and should the world work as one to prevent climate change?
- Revolutions – ones that work and ones that didn't (e.g. French Revolution, Arab Spring in Libya). Are they worth it and can things change for the better?

Art

- Political propaganda posters :



Make a similar style poster for a cause that's important to you.