

## American Democracy and the Rule of Law Why Every Vote Matters

The right to vote is the very foundation of government by the people. For this reason, striving to establish and protect every citizen's right to vote has been a central theme of American legal and civic history.

### **Format**

The Easy Essay allows students to articulate their feelings on the topic in only 100 words. Each question can be assigned daily or over the course of five weeks. During Nevada's Law Month, a total of \$500 in prizes was awarded to the top three essays submitted during the contest. Teachers can choose to award prizes or use this exercise to encourage written expression on the topic.

### **Question 1:**

Persons 18-20 years old have the lowest voter turnout. How can you convince your friends in that age group to vote?

### **Question 2:**

It has been suggested that voting day should be a national holiday. Is this a good idea to increase voter turnout?

### **Question 3:**

Voting is the way we ensure we have a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." How can our schools inspire young people to get registered, learn about candidates and issues, and then vote?

### **Question 4:**

How can social media change the way voters get political information? Or is social media just a way for candidates to get their names out there and influence votes without having to tell where they stand on the issues?

### **Question 5:**

Elections can be about more than individual races and individual candidates. While most laws are made by the Legislature, voters can create law or changes to the Nevada Constitution through ballot questions and the initiative process. Are ballot questions and initiatives a good way to make laws? Why?