
Expanding the franchise, should we lower the voting age to 16?

TASK

1. Read the information below and the additional articles,
2. Then summarise what you think are the three strongest arguments to **lower the voting age to 16** (put examples to support your points in red/green),
3. State why you find it convincing,
4. Then add a counter argument or a limitation for each of the argument.

Once you have completed this, do the same for the three strongest arguments to **keep the voting age at 18**, then add a counter argument or a limitation for each of the arguments.

Make sure you bring this work with you to your first politics lesson.

[Tip: you are not expected to understand all the issues or terminology in your research but it would be helpful if you made of list of terms you do not understand and bring them to class]

Elections & Voting Explained

(Taken from <http://www.britpolitics.co.uk/uk->

Young people may well have better knowledge of issues than some older people as they are more likely to follow them on the internet and Citizenship Education, which includes electoral systems and how government works, is taught as part of the National Curriculum.

It is important to increase turnout at elections. In the 1964 general election the youngest age group turned out to vote as strongly as other age groups but this has changed. 44% of 18 to 24 year olds voted in the 2010 general election compared with 76% of the over 65s. Voting at 16 when politics is still discussed at school/college may get them into the habit of voting.

| Three strongest arguments in favour of lowering the voting age to 16 | Counter arguments or limitations to this point. |
|--|---|
| <p>Summary of argument:</p> <p>Why do you find it convincing?</p> | |
| <p>Summary of argument:</p> <p>Why do you find it convincing?</p> | |
| <p>Summary of argument:</p> <p>Why do you find it convincing?</p> | |

| Three strongest arguments against | Counter arguments or limitations to this point. |
|--|---|
| <p>Summary of argument:</p> <p>Why do you find it convincing?</p> | |
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