

The  
Economist

EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION



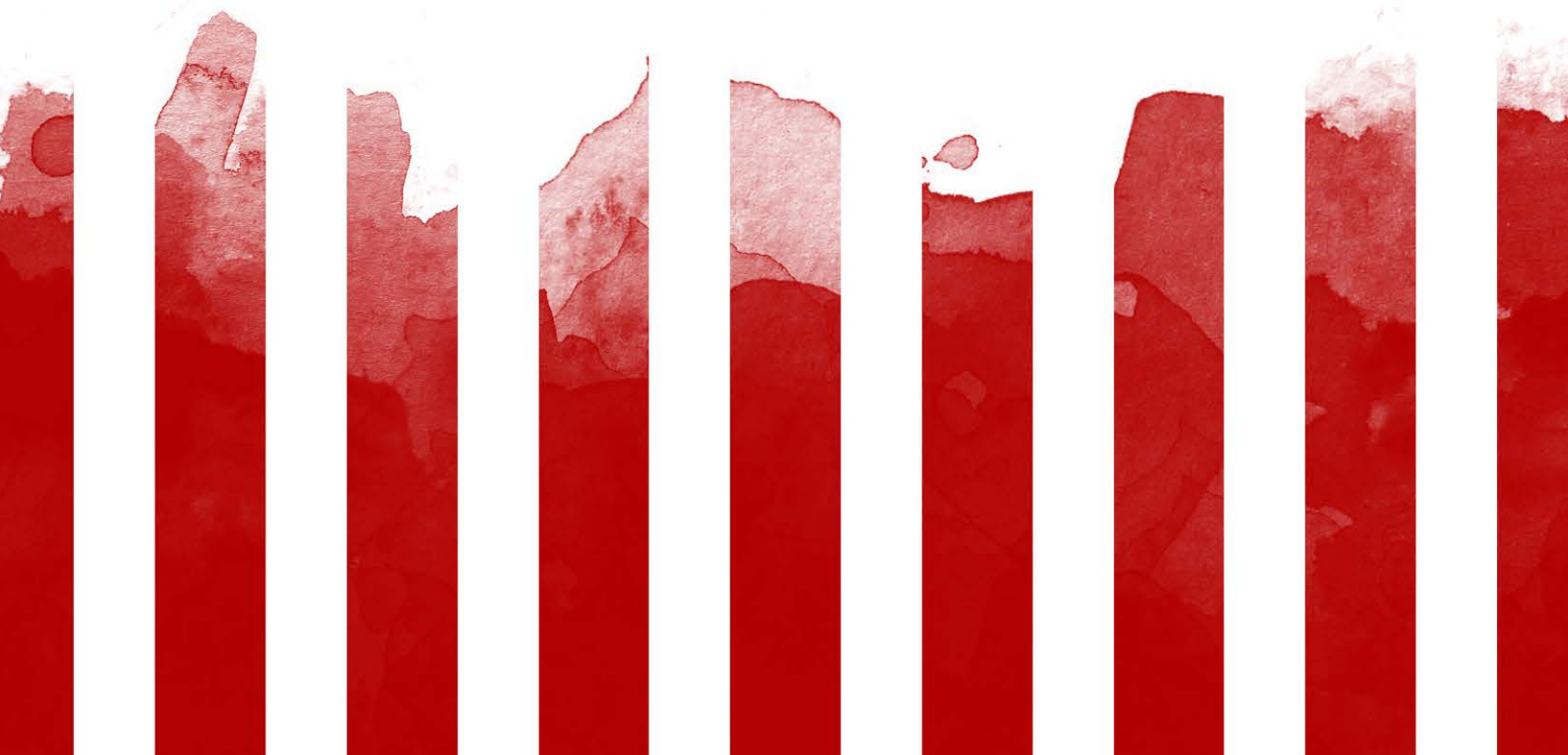
Burnet News Club 2020-2021

**ISSUE 1**



# THE AMERICAN ELECTION

**SESSION 1**



# THE AMERICAN ELECTION

## SESSION 1

STEP ONE –Build knowledge– <b>Session 1</b>	STEP ONE –Build knowledge– <b>Session 2</b>	STEP TWO –Evaluate & decide– <b>Session 3</b>	STEP TWO –Evaluate & decide– <b>Session 4</b>	STEP THREE –Prepare & present– <b>Session 5</b>	STEP THREE –Prepare & present– <b>Session 6</b>
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**Objective:** to understand who can run for president in America and who the 2020 presidential candidates are

All activities have been planned in line with the government guidelines on social distancing



Before the session you will need to:

- Work through the activities in the *Introductory session* (optional) – found on the Hub
- Have the *Presidential power PowerPoint* ready to show
- Have a large stack of Post-it notes or cut-up scrap paper to hand
- Print and cut out the *Higher or lower cards*

ACTIVITY	TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS	TIME
<b>Key concept: power</b>	Explain to students that this Issue explores where the power lies in the American election.  Work through slide 1 of the <i>Presidential power PowerPoint</i> (click to reveal definition and further questions). Encourage students with different opinions to answer.	10 mins
<b>Power Post-its</b>  	Show slide 2 and ask students to write the traits (or the numbers) onto separate post-it notes. They should then order these from “adds to your power most” to “adds to your power least”. Discuss reasons for their order. Then reorder from “most important for a good leader” to “least important for a good leader”.  <b>Ask:</b> do things that make you powerful also make you a good leader? Can you think of a powerful person who isn't a good leader? Or a good leader who isn't powerful?  <b>CHALLENGE:</b> could any of these traits make it difficult to be a good leader? Why?	10 mins
<b>Higher or lower</b> 	Hand out the <i>Higher or lower cards</i> about previous presidents of America to eight students. They should read them in order, starting with the question and giving time for the rest of the class to guess if the answer is higher or lower than the previous answer.  <b>Ask:</b> what generalisations could we make about previous presidents?  Only certain types of people can become president in America. Can you guess the criteria? ( <i>answers in next activity</i> )	15 mins
<b>Candidate criteria</b>  	Work through slides 3-8 about the criteria needed to become president in America. Students should vote for whether they think the criteria are true or false before you reveal the answer. For each criteria ask: would this make someone a better leader? How would this make one type of person more powerful than another?  Read slide 9 and answer the questions as a group.	10 mins
<b>2020 candidates</b> 	Show slide 10. Ask students to compare these to the previous presidents. Do they fit the trend?  Reflection questions: based on their factfiles, which candidate do you think will be a better leader? Who do you think is more powerful? Why? Do you think everyone is happy to choose between these two candidates?	10 mins

You should set up your student Hub accounts between this week and next and let students know their usernames and passwords. Support on how to do this can be found [here](#) on the Hub Help.



## THE AMERICAN ELECTION

# HIGHER OR LOWER CARDS



### CARD 1

Guess the answer to the first question to get us started! How many different people have taken on the role of president?

#### ANSWER

**There have been 44 different people in the role of president.**

### CARD 2

How many of the previous presidents were from Virginia (very close to Washington DC, where the president lives and works)? Is the answer higher or lower than 44?

#### ANSWER

**Lower! 8/44 were from the state of Virginia.**

### CARD 3

How many of the previous presidents were lawyers? Is the answer higher or lower than 8?

#### ANSWER

**Higher! 26/44 were lawyers.**

### CARD 4

How many of the previous presidents went to Harvard, one of the top universities in the world? Is the answer higher or lower than 26?

#### ANSWER

**Lower! 8/44 went to Harvard.**

### CARD 5

How many presidents were aged 60 or over on the day they became president? Is the answer higher or lower than 8?

#### ANSWER

**Higher! 11/44 were over 60 when they became president. The average age is 55.**

### CARD 6

How many of the previous presidents were white? Is the answer higher or lower than 11?

#### ANSWER

**Higher! 43/44 were white.**

### CARD 7

How many of the previous presidents were Christian? Is the answer higher or lower than 11?

#### ANSWER

**Higher! 44/44 were Christian.**

### CARD 8

How many of the previous presidents were male? Is the answer higher or lower than 44?

#### ANSWER

**The same! 44/44 were male.**