



## Author's Purpose- Election Day

Read the passages. Write the author's purpose for writing each passage on the line.

To persuade the reader to...

To entertain the reader with a story about...

To inform the reader about...

To explain to the reader how to...

To describe a...

Every American should vote. It is the responsibility of every adult American citizen to vote in our national, state, and local elections each and every year. I feel angry when I think of the lazy people who do not vote. In the 2000 election, just over half of the population (51%) voted. Some of our ancestors had to fight to earn the right to vote. I wonder what some of the African American slaves of long ago would say if they saw people of today who had the right to vote, but chose not to vote. I bet they'd be infuriated. I wonder what Susan B. Anthony, who fought for women's right to vote, would say if she saw women today choose not to vote! I think she'd be upset because she fought for that right for women. Every American should vote in November- it is your responsibility as an American citizen!

1. What is the purpose of the above passage?

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"Class, election day is coming up in a few weeks," began Mrs. Jones. "Does anyone know when Election Day is?"

"I know it's in November," answered Jocelyn.

"You're right," confirmed Mrs. Jones. "Now, you can't vote in the national elections yet, but--"

"That's not fair!" interrupted Isaac. "Kids should get to vote, too." Isaac was one of those kids who loved to argue. He often felt like he wasn't being treated fairly by anyone.

"Well, that's your opinion," said the teacher, "but many adults do not agree. They feel that kids are not well-informed and haven't yet learned enough about how our government works. The law says you can vote when you are eighteen years old."

Isaac grumbled under his breath.

"However," continued Mrs. Jones, "we are going to have a *class* election on Election Day. You will have an opportunity to vote for a class president and vice president. I will give you more information tomorrow, but for now, I want you to think about if I will give you more information tomorrow, but for now, I want you to think about if YOU would like to run for a class officer position. Tomorrow we will learn about how to nominate a classmate."

"*This is going to be pretty cool!*" thought Jocelyn.

2. What is the purpose of the above passage?

Political parties are groups of people who share similar beliefs about how the government should work. There are three main political parties in the United States.

The Democratic Party is the largest and oldest political party in the U.S. Democrats often advocate for equal opportunity, health care for everyone, and protecting the environment. The symbol of this party is the donkey. Blue is the color associated with the Democratic Party.

The Republican Party is the other large political party in America. Republicans usually advocate for lower taxes, a strong military, and personal responsibility. The symbol of this party is the elephant. Red is the color associated with the Republican Party.

The Green Party is a newer, younger political party in the United States. California is the state with the highest number of Green Party members. They believe that we should take care of the environment, and treat everyone fairly and justly. The sunflower is the symbol of this party.

3. What is the purpose of the above passage?

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Sometimes voters are not able to travel to the polling place where they are assigned to vote. Absentee ballots are available for these Americans. These are the steps you need to follow if you want to use an absentee ballot. First, you must request an absentee ballot by contacting the County Auditor's Office. When it arrives in the mail, it is important to read the directions. The directions will tell you to use a pen to fill in the ovals. The directions will also provide examples on how to fill in the oval completely (you cannot put an X or a checkmark in the oval). After reading the directions, place your votes by filling in the circles beside the names of people you wish to vote for. When you finish voting, you have to sign your envelope. Finally, place your ballot in the provided envelope, and put it in the mailbox. Those are the simple steps to completing an absentee ballot.

4. What is the purpose of the above passage?

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I can't really put my finger on why, but Election Day is like no other day in November. Every year, I can just smell the excitement in the air! What does excitement smell like, you ask? Well, I can only describe it as fresh and pure, a bit like that fresh scent you get when you bite into a crisp red apple. I hear people talk of hope and change as they are waiting in line to cast their ballots. I can also see the excitement in their eyes as they leave their polling station, having just voted for their candidate or cause, and feeling good about themselves and hope for the future. Yes, even if I had no calendar, I think my senses would recognize and tell me it's Election Day.

5. What is the purpose of the above passage?

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