

60-90 minute lesson

Why is the world talking about the US ELECTIONS?



TOPICAL TALK HEADLINES

In November 2024 Joe Biden and Donald Trump are set for an election rematch in the US. In this lesson students will explore how the outcome of the US elections might affect people worldwide.

Politics and democracy

This lesson provides opportunities to practise

Problem solving



Intermediate: exploring problems

Step 4: I explore problems by creating different possible solutions

Step 5: I explore problems by thinking about the pros and cons of possible solutions

Step 6: I explore complex problems by identifying when there are no simple technical solutions

Step 7: I explore complex problems by building my understanding through research

Step 8: I explore complex problems by analysing the causes and effects

For more information about the Topical Talk skills, look here: bit.ly/TTFrameworks

Sustainable Development Goals



Want more resources?

Take a look at the Topical Talk resource library. All resources are free and it takes seconds to sign up.

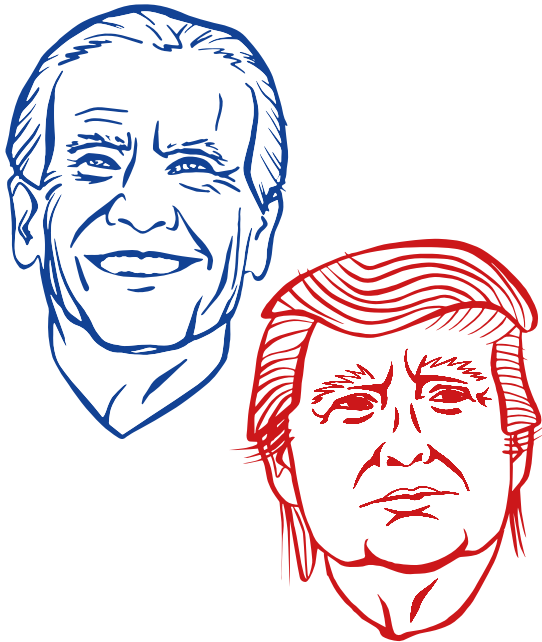
talk.economistfoundation.org/resources

Teacher instructions

Before this lesson

- Print the *Teacher instructions*, or have them to hand
- Have the *PowerPoint* ready to share on screen
- Print the *Posters* and display them around the room
- Print *Maps*, enough for one between three

Missing something? Head to the Topical Talk resource library and search for this lesson to download everything you need:
talk.economistfoundation.org/resources



Activity one

Slide 2

Read the slide aloud and discuss the questions together.

Slide 3

Ask a student to read the slide aloud.

Activity two

Slide 4

Split the class into four groups. Each group should move to a *Poster*. Read the instructions on the slide aloud and play the five minute timer. When the time is up, ask groups to move to a new *Poster*.

Repeat so that each group visits all four *Posters*.

Activity three

Slides 5 to 6

Ask students to get into groups of three. Give each group a *Map*. Read the instructions on slide 5 aloud. If students need support, display slide 6.

Slide 7

Read the question aloud. Ask students to choose an action that represents their opinion. Students with different actions should explain their decisions.

Slide 8

Read this lesson's skill steps aloud. Give students time to reflect and feed back. Praise detailed reflections and evidence of metacognition.

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Keywords

1. Election

= when people vote to choose someone for a job or a position

2. Democracy

= a system of government where the people vote for those who make the rules

3. Trade

= when countries sell products and goods to other countries

4. Net-zero emissions

= reaching a balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere

We'd love to see your Topical Talkers in action!
Share your photos with [@econ_foundation](#) and use [#TopicalTalk](#) for the chance to feature on our social media channels!



Posters



ONGOING CONFLICT

A new US president will decide whether to continue support for Ukraine in its ongoing conflict with Russia.



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Imagine you are a US citizen. Read the two opinions.
Put your finger on the scale to show where your opinion would be.
Explain your reason.

"Military aid for Ukraine **shouldn't** continue."



"Military aid for Ukraine **should** continue."

Repeat the activity
for these opinions.

"Countries **should** get involved in other countries' conflicts."



"Countries **shouldn't** get involved in other countries' conflicts."



CHALLENGE


If you lived in Ukraine, who might you hope would win the election?

Posters

CLIMATE CHANGE


A new US president will need to decide what to do about climate change.

JOE BIDEN



Mr Biden is spending a lot of money on green energy and other eco-friendly technology and is working with other countries to tackle climate change. ★ Research by the Department of Energy found, if it continues as it is, the US could reach net-zero emissions by 2050. ■

DONALD TRUMP



Mr Trump and his supporters want to focus on producing more fossil fuels and getting rid of rules that try to limit pollution. ★ Mr Trump's views on climate change match what many Republicans think – they're not sure it's a big problem and do not want to take strong action. ■



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Read the information about Mr Biden and Mr Trump again. But this time...

...When you see a ★, point to the emoji that shows your reaction.

...When you see a ■, point to the emoji that might show the reaction of the leader of a country badly affected by climate change.

Take it in turns to explain.



KEYWORD



Net-zero emissions = reaching a balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere



CHALLENGE

If you were the next president, what rules about the climate would you introduce?

Posters

TRADE

A new US president will make decisions about global trade.



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Imagine you are a business owner.

?

How might your business be affected if the US **makes it harder** to trade with your country?

?

How might your business be affected if the US **makes it easier** to trade with your country?



Imagine you are a customer.

?

How might you be affected if the US **makes it harder** to trade with your country?

?

How might you be affected if the US **makes it easier** to trade with your country?

KEYWORD

Trade = when countries sell products and goods to other countries

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) = a global organisation that deals with the rules of trade between 164 nations



Blue areas trade under the WTO rules.



CHALLENGE

What benefits does trading with other countries bring?
What problems might it cause?



TRAVEL BANS


A new US president will make decisions about who is allowed into the country.

JOE BIDEN



Mr Biden previously **reversed** a "travel ban" that Mr Trump put in place during his presidency. The travel ban stopped travellers with passports from five mainly Muslim countries, including Syria and Iran, and two other countries, North Korea and Venezuela, from entering the US due to national security concerns.

DONALD TRUMP



Mr Trump has said he would like to bring back a travel ban that's "bigger than before and stronger than before" if he becomes president again.

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Read the opinions below. Number them from 1 (I agree with this most) to 4 (I agree with this least). You can only allocate each number **once** and you must agree on the final decision.

"It's OK to put a travel ban on an entire country."

"Travel bans might make people scared of people from other countries."

"The president should be able to do anything if they believe it will keep the US safe."

"Safety is more important than fairness when it comes to travel rules."



CHALLENGE

How easy or difficult might it be for a president to introduce a travel ban?



Map



**Which countries might be affected
by the US election? Find them on
your map and label them:**

CC = climate change **B** = travel bans

T = trade **C** = conflict

