

The VOTE Textbook

Student Notes

Chapter 21: The World Needs Your Voice

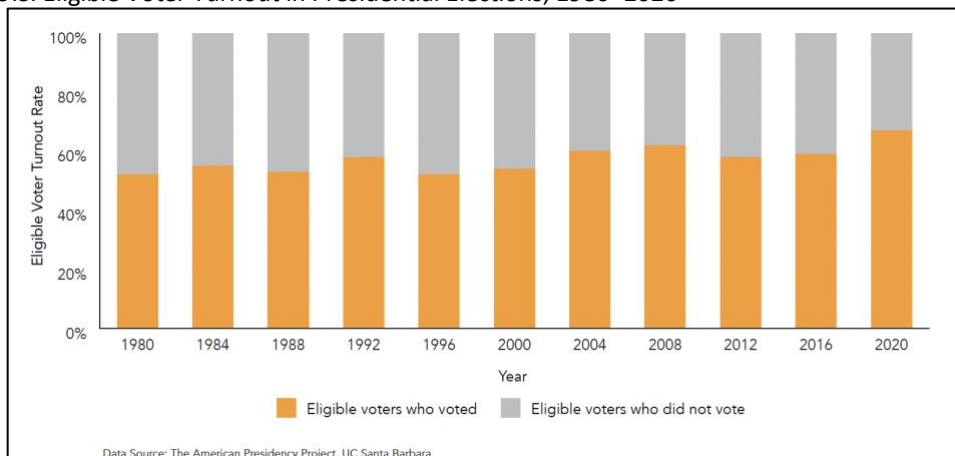
Opening Story: The royal siblings and three empty rooms

By letting in light, we set the foundation for innovative thinking to emerge. We find the solutions that free us from material worry so we can each contribute our unique gifts and society can reach its highest potential.

Democracy and Voting

Generations of people fought to secure the right to vote. They would probably be deeply disappointed that barely half of eligible U.S. voters cast their ballots in recent elections. Millions more didn't register and therefore couldn't vote.

U.S. Eligible Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections, 1980–2020



My vote matters. There are many examples of a single vote making all the difference.

Compare my first vote to my second vote on each issue (the VOTE Ballot).

- Did I completely change my perspective on at least one issue?

- Did I keep the same perspective but shift a bit toward another perspective on at least one issue?
- Were both votes identical on at least one issue, but I became more articulate and confident about my position?

The Golden Moment

Even though liberals, radicals, and conservatives strongly disagree on economic policies, they share the same goals. They all want to create prosperity and well-being. They just have very different ways to do it.

The VOTE Mission

To inspire new solutions to our country's urgent economic problems by building a culture of respectful listening, passionate advocacy, and intelligent debate.

It is definitely possible to inspire new solutions to our urgent economic problems. When we're open-minded to diverse ideas—including ideas from rival perspectives—they become springboards to new ways of thinking that can lead to breakthroughs.

Open-mindedness is the pathway to prosperity.

It is definitely possible to build a culture that overcomes partisan hostility and siloed thinking. I can deeply disagree with a person's ideas while simultaneously trusting that they want the same outcomes that I want.

- Practice hitting the right note at the dinner table.
- Polish my persuasive skills in conversations with coworkers, classmates, neighbors, and strangers.
- Hone my arguments so I can discuss ideas with strength and clarity.

Use the light of knowledge and open-mindedness to change the conversation.