

Ranking Presidential Priorities

Americans will vote for a new President in November. This fall will be the general election campaign between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. During the campaign each candidate will spell out their set of presidential priorities, explaining what they will focus on if they are elected. This activity is designed to get you thinking about your national priorities. What would you like the new president to do first? What are the most important issues for the country and the new President to solve?

Complete the following four steps before our class discussion:

1. With your partner, take the stack of eight presidential priorities written on each rectangle. Begin by discussing which rectangle should be the top priority of the president, when he or she takes office. Then look at the other priorities and rank them as well. Use the diamond ranking template to place your priorities from the top to the bottom. If you can't agree with your partner, go ahead and write in your own set of priorities in the ranking template.
2. The ninth box is blank. With your partner, write an additional presidential priority and move it into one of the nine spots. You can put it where you think it best fits.
3. After you have put your nine rectangles on the diamond ranking template, visit another pair of students in the classroom. Compare your presidential priorities with the other pair. Discuss whether your priorities similar or they different? Give your reasons for your ranking and listen to the other pair of students explain theirs.
4. In the area below, explain what you feel should be the President's number one priority when he or she takes office in January of 2017. Explain why.

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