



Students, College Administrators, and Election Officials Working Together to Overcome Barriers to Student Voting

Hosting a Debate Watch Party

The weeks leading up to an election offer opportunities to engage your campus community in activities that will help students to become more informed voters. If you are unable to host a campus debate or forum between two or more candidates vying for electoral office, there may be a televised debate that will offer the opportunity to plan an organized activity.

How to Get Started

- Research the dates of broadcast or streamed debates.
- Choose a date with a broadcast time that works for your campus.
- Reserve a space where the broadcast can be viewed on a large screen or multiple televisions.

Next Steps

- Plan wrap around programming. Ideas include a hosted audience discussion, small group break-out discussions, or a moderated panel with time for audience questions.
- Invite groups to partner with you that can provide voter information, such as the League of Women Voters or your local election officials.
- Promote the event in campus publications, with fliers or handouts, through email, social media and class announcements.
- Invite professors to make the debate watch party part of their classes.
- Obtain refreshments.

During the Event

- Invite students to sign a pledge to vote in the election.
- Encourage students to live tweet their reaction to the debate on social media.
- Provide a way for students to submit questions that can be answered by guest experts after the debate concludes.
- Invite students to write messages on a large "I vote because..." banner that can be displayed on campus in the days leading up to the election.
- Provide students with a "debate scorecard" so they can evaluate the candidates on how they answer questions and address important issues.

**For more information on how to activate your campus visit
www.campusvoteproject.org**



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Debate Watch Party Viewing Guide

The following questions will help guide a discussion after a debate.

1. Are you familiar with the responsibilities the candidates would hold in the elected position for which they are running? Did this discussion help you to see how they would carry out their work? Why or why not?
2. Were you already familiar with the candidates? Were all the candidates for the office included in the debate? How might the discussion have changed if more or fewer candidates were invited to participate?
3. Was there a dominating theme to the debate? If yes, what was it? Was it a theme you feel is relevant to the current political climate in your community? Why or why not?
4. How did the candidates respond to the questions that were posed? Were they straightforward, evasive or somewhere in between? Did this impact your opinion of the candidates? If so, how did your opinion change?
5. Did the candidates put forward specific ideas or policies, or speak more thematically? What ideas or policies were offered and what themes were represented?

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