

1st Place, Grades 6-8
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Why it is Important to Vote

It is the job of the president and the government to make decisions that shape the future of the country. We have a constitutional right to vote. Why not take advantage of the opportunity to decide who makes those decisions? Voting is more important than people make it seem. Thinking that a vote "won't matter" is a mistake. Every vote counts, and just one could change the country forever.

Voting impacts every aspect of American lives, from education and healthcare to homeland security and civil liberties. It even impacts what will happen in the future. By voting, Americans are making their voice heard for them and their families. Voters are also deciding who would run the country for their children and grandchildren.

American citizens have many rights. One of those is the right to vote: *"Amendment 15: Section 1: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account to of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."* There was a time when not all Americans could vote, so we should take advantage of a right Americans did not always have.

Safety is an important aspect of voting. When voting for a candidate, Americans could be putting their own life, their loved ones' lives, and other people's lives in their hands. What happens if Americans don't vote? Americans could be putting their lives in a total stranger's hands. John F. Kennedy stated, "The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all."

In conclusion, voting can affect the lives of Americans in so many ways. Everyday choices and actions are impacted by the decisions elected officials make. But not only is voting a

right that needs to be exercised by all American adults; it is a huge responsibility. The future generations of America will be impacted by the decisions Americans make at the polls now. America needs its citizens to vote, so remember to make it to the polls in November and mold the future of America to the people's will.