

## Current topics in short: Talking about the outcome of the U.S. presidential elections (S II)

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Im November 2020 wurde in den USA mit Joe Biden ein neuer Präsident gewählt. Dieser hat den in vielerlei Hinsicht ungewöhnlichen Präsidenten Donald Trump bereits abgelöst, auch wenn viele Trump-Anhänger die Wahlergebnisse für gefälscht halten und nicht anerkennen wollen – was zu dem schockierenden Sturm auf das Kapitol führte. Nach jeder Präsidentschaft stellt sich die Frage, was bleibt. Welches Erbe überlässt der neue Präsident an, welche mittel- und langfristigen Konsequenzen hatte die Politik des scheidenden Präsidenten? Die Schülerinnen und Schüler setzen sich in diesen Unterrichtsmaterialien mit verschiedenen Einschätzungen aus Interviews mit US-Bürgerinnen und -Bürgern auseinander und ordnen diese auf dem Spektrum politischer Meinungen ein.

### KOMPETENZPROFIL

**Klassenstufe:** 11/12 (G8) bzw. 11–13 (G9)

**Dauer:** 3 Unterrichtsstunden

**Kompetenzen:** 1. Leseverstehen: Einschätzungen/Meinungen verschiedener Personen lesen und verstehen; 2. Sprechen: am Unterrichtsgespräch teilnehmen; 3. Interkulturelle Kompetenz: Werte, Haltungen und Einstellungen des zielsprachigen Landes erkennen und unter Berücksichtigung des fremdkulturellen Hintergrundes einordnen

**Thematische Bereiche:** USA, aktuelle gesellschaftliche Probleme

**Material:** Texte

**Person 2:** Trump's administration succeeded in dividing the country and encouraged people to speak out their prejudices and uncouth opinions and behaviors. He gave big business a big boost. Immigration issues are a long-term problem, including children who are now without parents. Party divide is worse than ever so our elected officials will have a hard time working together in the future. The new administration will be helping immigrants for example by legalizing DACA. Also, Biden will speak the truth about COVID-19 and its seriousness. The new administration will hopefully improve education and stop enabling millionaires in this country. People voted for Biden because he is very kind and caring. He wants normalcy, not chaos. I am sure he will help working class people and help get health care bills passed.

*former teacher, now retired, female, based in Atlanta, mother of two and grandmother of four*

**Person 3:** Despite my extreme dislike for Donald Trump, I think some positive things did happen while he was in office. He helped Israel make peace with its neighbours, while moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem. What is more, his administration implemented tax cuts. The economy has grown considerably during his presidency, too. One of the problems is the handling of COVID-19. Trump has caused politicization of how Americans view the pandemic, with Trump supporters generally believing it's a hoax and Democrats believing in science. There will also be a change beyond Biden's presidency to unify a much divided USA, I think. Generally, creating jobs in combination with social equality and sustainability will be a problem for years to come. When Biden is president, I will be less embarrassed about how the USA is represented around the world. Trump may be smart and have good ideas (maybe), but he does not articulate them in a diplomatic way. People voted for Biden because he is not Trump. I think many different types of people voted for him, Democrats and Republicans alike, because they are not 'Trumpers'. Although, there are many Republicans who voted for Trump even though they do not like him because they vote along party lines. I would like to invite Joe Biden to my house and talk to him about what drove him into politics and why he continued to pursue the presidency over so many years and attempts.

*professional working woman, 47-year-old wife and mother of two*

**Person 4:** The biggest achievements of the Trump administration are the following: he tried to achieve better trade agreements, for example with China. He also made an effort to protect patent rights for US companies, that is very important in my opinion. Furthermore, he pulled US-troops out of Somalia. And last but not least, he challenged TikTok. What I would consider a long-term problem is the tax cuts aimed at the extremely wealthy at the cost of our economy. Another problem is the issue of global warming and Trump's decision to protect fossil fuels in this ultramodern economy. Under Biden, we are going to take the coronavirus a lot more seriously. We will also respect science. And our treatment of immigrants and the way we view immigrants will change. People are generally tired of the political circus that was constantly in the news. People were not treated fairly under the Trump administration, especially immigrants and people of lower incomes. The idea of "America first" was also a problem because global problems need global solutions.

*Robert lives in Miami, father of two teenagers, works in the airline industry*

#### Additional tasks:

1. Classify the people who gave their opinion regarding their political position, i.e. from very conservative to moderate to very liberal or even left wing. Explain your opinion to a partner.
2. Take a look at the problems and achievements of the Trump administration you have listed. Which of these achievements are domestic issues, which are international issues?
3. Rank these achievements in an order of your choice, i.e. from best to worst.
4. Rank the problems in an order of your choice, i.e. from worst to less bad to least bad.



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