



Name _____

Date _____ Class _____



ACTIVITY: Voting Rights Essay

Did you know that voting is compulsory in Australia? In fact, citizens who don't vote are fined! Australia reports that 85-90% of eligible citizens vote in a given election. In the United States, where voting is not compulsory, an average of 50-55% of eligible citizens vote in a given election, with the highest turnout since 1900 being 66% in 2020.

Should the United States make voting compulsory? On a separate sheet of paper or your laptop, write a detailed essay that chooses a position and clearly explains the reasoning behind your stance. Use supporting details, examples from the primary sources in this DocsBox, and your own experiences to support your position.

To prepare: choose the primary source(s) you want to use to support your argument. Choose from "Thoughts on Government" by John Adams, the 1901 (anti) suffrage amendment, the 1920 women's suffrage amendment, the 1946 "rights of persons" amendment, and the 1971 N.C. Constitution. Then make notes on the following prompts about the document(s):

1. Analyze the central idea in the document. Provide textual evidence that supports the central idea.
2. Are there secondary ideas in the text? If so, identify them and provide supporting textual evidence.
3. What persuasive language or rhetorical devices does the author use in the document? What words or phrases are essential to the meaning or tone of the text?
4. In what order are the arguments of the text presented? What is the author's purpose in presenting the arguments this way?