

Civics: A Christian Worldview.
Should This Person Vote? (15 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Prep

Print this page and a copy of Page 2 for each student.

Instructions

1. This activity helps students reason through what requirements should potentially be placed upon voters.
2. Put students in pairs or groups.
3. Hand out Page 2 to students.
4. Give students about 6-8 minutes to complete the scenarios and discuss in pairs/groups.
5. When time's up, discuss as a class. (Take turns calling on different students, and make students explain why they said "Yes" or "No" to their examples!)
6. **NOTE:** There's no "answer key"; the examples are mostly clear, although there are some examples that students will debate on. Encourage different opinions with reasons why on these!

Questions To Ask Students

- Should voting require knowledge?
- Should voting require property ownership?
- Should voting require paying taxes?
- Should voting require anything more than our system requires now—being 18, a citizen, residency in a state, and not being in jail?
- Should irresponsible voters have equal voting power?
- Which is more dangerous, preventing some people from voting, or allowing uninformed voters to vote?

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION: What did Bastiat say was the reason that many individuals fight for the right to vote, and if the law kept to its proper purpose, how would this make voting way less controversial?

ANSWER: *People fight for the right to vote, often because they want a voice in the dividing up of legal plunder. But if the law didn't legally plunder—and if voters were NEVER allowed to vote for any form of legal plunder, it would matter much less who voted!*

Civics: A Christian Worldview. Should This Person Vote?

Decide which category each person below belongs in:

YES – This person should be allowed to vote.

NO – This person should not be allowed to vote.

DEBATABLE – Reasonable people might disagree.

Write one of those choices in the space under each description below:

An 18-year-old who knows nothing about government	A business owner who employs 200 workers	A citizen who carefully researches every election	A person who votes randomly without thinking
A welfare recipient who pays no taxes	A homeowner who pays property taxes	A citizen who has never read the Constitution	A person who owns no property but carefully studies issues
A citizen who refuses to learn anything about issues	A person who believes every rumor he hears	A citizen who votes to take money from others for personal benefit	A person who never votes
A citizen who works full-time and pays taxes	A person who can't name a single government official	A military veteran	A civics teacher whom students dearly, <i>dearly</i> love with all their hearts