

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.
Snappy Answers to Government Questions, Part 1 (15-20 Minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Goal

This activity helps students come up with Biblical, informative answers to government questions asked by hypothetical friends/acquaintances/critics/random strangers who accost them on street corners.

Instructions – Follow Carefully!

1. Read the instructions together.
2. Give students 6-8 minutes to answer the questions INDIVIDUALLY (**students' answers must be 20 words or fewer!**).
3. Tell students: **“Don’t let anyone see your answers!”**
4. When time’s up, collect the answer sheets.
5. Tell students: “You’re going to vote for the best, most-accurate, and snappiest-without-being-rude answers to these four questions. **DO NOT VOTE FOR YOUR OWN ANSWERS.**”
6. Read Question #1 out loud, followed by all the answers students wrote to that question.
7. Ask students one at a time to vote for the answer to Question #1 that they thought was the best, and tally up the votes.
8. Announce: “The winner to Question #1 is [answer here], which was written by [student name here]!”
9. Continue with Questions #2 – #4 until all votes are taken.
10. (If you want, you can award bonus points to winners.)

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Snappy Answers to Government Questions, Part 1

Come up with an answer to these four questions that a friend/acquaintance/critic asks you about American government topics we've discussed. Each answer must be...

- (a) snappy (**20 words or fewer**),
- (b) correct/accurate, and
- (c) polite—no rude insults (but feel free to use humor to make your point ☺).

The Questions:

1. "So you think government shouldn't tell businesses how much to pay employees? Why would you say that, when Founding Father John Jarvis Quackenbush in 1796 said that that *was* the government's job?"

2. "The U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment says that the U.S. government can take private land for public use, so I support that. I mean, it's in the Constitution, isn't it?"

3. "You say the Bible says the proper function of the government is 'for the punishment of evildoers'? Wow, so you want the government to punish people for cursing or speaking out against Christianity?"

4. "Okay, so you believe the Bible teaches that government is to punish *harm*. Then why aren't you in favor of laws stopping people from drinking sodas? Don't sodas *harm* our bodies?"

Now, go back and make sure your answers are all 20 words or fewer!