

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.
Snappy Answers to Government Questions, Part 11 (25–30 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

1. Read the instructions together.
2. Give students 12–15 minutes to answer the questions INDIVIDUALLY (**reminder: students' answers must be 20 words or fewer!**). You can go a few minutes over the suggested time limit if the students are really getting into their answers, of course!
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 five 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 – #5 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 11

Come up with an answer to these five 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. “You support *secession*? Like what some *southerners* did? I guess then you support slavery too?”

2. “What’s wrong with Lincoln’s arresting all those newspaper editors and closing down their papers? It was *war*! Shouldn’t a President be able to do what he needs to do to keep order?”

3. “I’m *glad* we have an income tax! Why don’t you—don’t you want the rich to pay their fair share?”

4. “What do you mean, ‘Secession is constitutional’? How?”

5. “Thank goodness they amended the Constitution to make senators elected by a majority of the people. Why in the world would we want state legislatures to choose senators?”



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