NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

All links are here and found at:

[**https://tinyurl.com/16freedom**](https://tinyurl.com/16freedom)Username: students Password: C-SPANCLASSROOM

**Deliberation Topic: Should the voting age be lowered to 16?**

1. First, define these terms and phrases before reading the background article or using the videos from C-SPAN Classroom Deliberations. Try searching Google or a dictionary for a definition.
2. Finally, use these words in your deliberations and writing activities after you understand all sides of the issue.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Term | Definition  |
| 26th Amendment |  |
| Activism |  |
| Advocate |  |
| Age of Majority |  |
| Amendment |  |
| Civic engagement |  |
| Cognition |  |
| Constitutional Amendment |  |
| Democracy |  |
| Draft |  |
| Juvenile |  |
| Maturity |  |
| Minor |  |
| Suffrage |  |
| Turnout |  |

**Background Video Questions**

**Deliberation Topic: Should the voting age be lowered to 16?**

**Directions:** *To provide a background, answer the questions associated with each of the videos.*

**VIDEO:** [**The Expansion of the Vote to 18 Year-Olds**](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9314)- Christine Blackerby, National Archives (1:19)

* What did the 26th Amendment do?
* How did the Vietnam War and the draft impact the passage of this amendment?

**VIDEO:** [**The Passage of the 26th Amendment**](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?7466)- Former Rep. Foley (D-WA) and Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) (3:17)

* What does the phrase “old enough to fight, old enough to vote” mean?
* What were the arguments against the 26th Amendment at the time of its passage?
* What was the impact of the 26th Amendment on voter turnout?
* Compare the circumstances and events taking place at the time of the passage of the 26th Amendment to today. What is similar? What is different?

**VIDEO:** [**Youth Voting in Takoma Park, MD**](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9321)- Rob Richie, Fair Vote (1:41)

* Why did Takoma Park decide to reduce the voting age to 16 for local elections?
* What were the effects of lowering the voting age in Takoma Park?
* How are local elections different than federal elections?

# Background Article Questions

**Deliberation Topic: Should the voting age be lowered to 16?**

[**Oregon may lower the voting age to 16**](https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/19/politics/oregon-voting-age-16-trnd/index.html)- *CNN*

* Describe the amendment that Oregon legislators have proposed.
* Why do the sponsors of this amendment feel it is necessary?
* What are arguments against this amendment?
* What other places in the United States allow 16 year-olds to vote?
* Why is the federal right to vote set at 18 years of age?
* What are the general trends in youth voting? How has lowering the voting age impacted this?

[**Legal Voting Age By Country**](https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/legal-voting-age-by-country.html)- *World Atlas*

* Describe the countries that have set the legal age to vote at 16. What have been some results of lowering the voting age in these countries?
* Describe the variations in how governments determine voting age requirements.
* What are factors that governments consider when determining the voting age?

[**8 Pros & Cons Of Lowering The Voting Age To 16, Like Washington, DC Is Considering**](https://www.bustle.com/p/8-pros-cons-of-lowering-the-voting-age-to-16-like-washington-dc-is-considering-8823839)- *Bustle*

https://tinyurl.com/eightprosandcons

* Summarize the arguments for allowing 16 year-olds to vote.
* Summarize the arguments against allowing 16 year-olds to vote.

**Should the voting age be lowered to 16?**

Use this chart to take notes on the strongest arguments for and against the question. For each argument, include the source (writer or speaker), a direct word-for-word quote, and a summary in your own words. You may also use quotes from the background videos and articles if you would like.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The voting age should be lowered to 16** | **The voting age should NOT be lowered to 16** |
| Source:Quote: Summary:  | Source:Quote: Summary:  |
| Source:Quote: Summary:  | Source:Quote: Summary: |
| Source:Quote: Summary:  | Source:Quote: Summary: |
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