

The intermediate classes are studying government today. Read the sentence below and explain the meaning of the underlined vocabulary word.

1. Each state is represented in the Senate by two senators elected from that state.
2. Each state is represented in the House of Representatives by representatives elected in proportion to the population of a state. (EX: Texas has 32 and Delaware has 1)
3. The president is assisted by a vice-president and a council of advisers called the Cabinet.
4. The Supreme Court consists of 9 justices. There is one Chief Justice who presides over the court.
5. There are fifty states in the U.S. and each one has a governor.
6. Each state also has a legislature to make laws.
7. The leader of a city is usually called a mayor.
8. The mayor is assisted by a city council.
9. If you want to be a politician, you must run for office.
10. You usually have someone helping to run your campaign and to raise money for ads.
11. You might be called on to debate your opponent about the issues.
12. The military has five branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard.

Questions:

1. Have you been to Washington, D.C.? What did you see there? Did you tour the White House?
2. Have you served in the military in any country? Is military service required in your country?
3. Have you served in an elected office? Would you like to serve in an elected office?
4. Do you think candidates who raise more money in their campaigns have an unfair advantage?
5. Do you think large companies should be allowed to donate unlimited funds to a campaign?
6. Do you think political campaigns last too long?
7. How are political campaigns financed in your country?
8. Why do you think there aren't more women in politics?
9. Do you think a politician's personal life affects their ability to do their jobs?
10. Would you vote for a candidate that had been divorced?
11. Are your political views the same as your parents'?
12. Do you think an actor or actress is qualified to run for office?
13. Should voting be compulsory (required of everyone)?

Idioms and Expressions Used in Politics:

1. We went to Afghanistan hoping to drive out the Taliban.
2. We hoped democratic forces would take back control.
3. We didn't realize how fiercely the Taliban would fight back.
4. Our country intends to honor the wishes of the people of Afghanistan.
5. People should learn to live within their means.
6. It appears Romney has the nomination locked up.
7. He bends over backwards to make himself fit in with every crowd he speaks to.
8. Romney has leaned on his advisors for support.
9. Romney has more than half the delegates he needs to clinich the nomination.
10. Most people would leap at the chance to be president.
11. Some voters leap to conclusions without knowing all the facts.
12. Campaigning is so hard on the candidates. It is amazing they can hold up under all that stress.
13. The labor union held out for better working conditions.

Assign each student a paragraph to read silently. After reading, the student should turn their paper over and tell the group about their paragraph. Afterwards they should read their paragraph out loud. Check for details they left out.

1. John served overseas in the military as a young man. When he returned to the U.S. he wanted to continue to serve his country, so he decided to run for mayor of his town. He was both intelligent and good-looking. He was very good at talking to people. Unfortunately, he lost the election because his opponent was older, more experienced and better known. Perhaps John will try to win a seat on the city council in the future.

2. Mrs. Brown planned a trip to Washington for her high school students. They would stay for three days and tour Congress and the White House. They would also visit the Smithsonian Museum. They planned to stay downtown in a nice hotel. But the students were not able to afford the trip. Mrs. Brown had to cancel it. She hopes the students will raise money over the summer so that the group can go to Washington next year.

3. Mr. Jackson hated politics. He did not read newspapers or listen to the TV news. Then his daughter decided to run for city council. She asked him to take charge of her campaign. Mr. Jackson suddenly had to read all the newspapers, watch TV news and pay attention to all the issues. He became an expert at politics. His daughter was elected. Now people hire Mr. Jackson to help manage their campaigns.

4. Brenda wanted everyone at the office to like her. She bent over backwards to be friendly with people. She always went into people's offices to talk to them. She brought people candy and coffee. Brenda was trying very hard to make friends, but many of her co-workers thought Brenda was annoying. They wanted to get to work and did not want Brenda hanging around their office talking. They didn't want candy or coffee and it made them feel guilty when Brenda kept bringing them gifts. People began avoiding Brenda. Brenda's feelings were hurt.

5. Jeff and his friends went camping in the mountains, but a big storm came through and dumped several feet of snow on the mountains. They got lost. Their food began to run out. They weren't sure how much longer they could hold out. They were getting very worried about their situation. Then a park ranger came upon them. He offered to lead them down from the mountains. They were thankful they had been rescued.