Note: The 2016 presidential debates take place on September 26, October 9 and October 19. Check out Channel One News coverage at the OneVote Election Desk, and plan to use this lesson plan after one of the debates.

Objectives
Students will:
• analyze historical political debates
• consider additional factors that may influence a debate’s outcome
• participate in a mock presidential debate

Watch this New York Times analysis of historical presidential debates.

Check for Understanding
• Which candidates benefitted most from past presidential debates? Why?
• Which candidates were hurt as a result of their debates? How?
• How can a candidate’s character, personality and appearance affect viewers during a debate?

Turn and Talk
Ask students: Considering all of the factors when participating in a debate, which of this year’s presidential candidates do you think would be the better debater? Why?
Share a few student responses with class.

Warm-up
Watch Channel One News OneVote coverage of 2016 presidential debate. Check Calendar for airdates.

Discuss
• What did the candidates agree on? What did they disagree on?
• Who do you think made the strongest points? Why?
• Did the candidates’ personality, demeanor or appearance affect their performance during the debate? If so, how?
• What types of questions are important to ask of presidential candidates?

Think-Pair-Share
What would you like to ask these candidates, if you had the chance? Write two questions for this year’s presidential candidates. Refer to the key issues in this year’s election, questions asked in previous debates and your own ideas to guide your responses.
Mock Presidential Debate
Select one student, a pair or a small group of students to represent each candidate. Teacher serves as moderator, selecting the debate questions from student responses, while a student or students ask questions of each candidate.

Debate Rules: Ask class to collaboratively create a list of debate rules, including but not limited to the following:

- Candidates take turns responding, and may not interrupt each other
- Candidates should be respectful and avoid insulting one another
- Candidates have a maximum of two minutes to respond to each question
- Candidates may refer to their notes or confer with their group when responding to questions
- Audience should remain quiet while candidates are speaking
- Audience must listen carefully and complete Student Debate Evaluation (see last page) for each question
- Results will be tallied at debate conclusion and the winner announced

Exit Ticket: Who do you think won the debate? Why?
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<th>Question</th>
<th>Clinton Response Summary</th>
<th>Trump Response Summary</th>
<th>Who answered best?</th>
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