AMERICA VOTES

Rights and responsibilities

(Fifth of 6)

Voter apathy is a threat to democracy and our way of life. As citizens of this country, we have the right and responsibility to vote. Many countries around the world are fighting for this basic right. However, American voters are going to the polls in smaller numbers. Younger voters ages 18-24 are voting even less.

WHO CAN VOTE?

Directions: Decide if the person described in each statement below is qualified to vote in a presidential election in the United States. Circle the **Y** for **Yes** or **N** for **No**.

1. **Y** **N** A 16-year old citizen of the United States who is a full-time high school student
2. **Y** **N** An adult migrant farm worker who is a tax-paying U.S. citizen but who has no permanent address
3. **Y** **N** An 18-year-old soldier fighting in Vietnam in 1966
4. **Y** **N** A 30-year-old pioneer woman living in the Wyoming Territory in 1850
5. **Y** **N** A 21-year-old Virginia slave in the 1850s
6. **Y** **N** A 21-year-old North Carolina factory worker who did not own a private home or property in 1845
7. **Y** **N** A Japanese citizen who lives and works in California and pays U.S. taxes
8. **Y** **N** An adult who can neither read nor write English

WHY DON'T PEOPLE VOTE?

- They think their vote "won't count."
- They are disillusioned by politicians' broken promises.
- They don't understand how issues will affect them.
- They don't feel connected to their community.

What are some ways to increase voter turnout?

OF 16% OF THE PEOPLE, BY 16% OF THE PEOPLE, FOR 16% OF THE PEOPLE.

For answers see www.ohionewspapers-in-ed.org/

KIDS VOTING USA Ohio

Learning Outcomes: Identifies rights and responsibilities of citizens, uses visuals, uses problem solving skills to make decisions in groups, obtains information from a variety of sources.

"VOTE"ABULARY WORDS:
Apathy, Voter qualifications, Disillusionment

A collaboration between NIE of the Ohio Newspaper Association and Kids Voting USA/Ohio.