

Name:

Per:



There isn't a single person in America who hasn't fantasized about one day suiting up for the most powerful job in the world...

Quarterback in the Super Bowl!

Wait. I meant U.S. President. Yea, that job. That's what I meant.

Okay, so maybe not everyone has dreamed of being this nation's Commander-in-Chief. But that job has some perks. Sure, it pays less than a Super Bowl quarterback... much less... and I have yet to see Papa John's throw money at any of our Presidents... but one word sums it up perfectly...

DRONES!

Woah! I got ahead of myself.

But you gotta admit... it would be cool, right? Even if you were President just for a day! Now let's imagine you find yourself the big winner on Election Tuesday. Scandals and impeachment probabilities aside (because let's be honest... we all know what's on your phone), you've just landed a pretty sweet gig for the next four years (eight, if you play your cards right).

Sooooooo... what now?

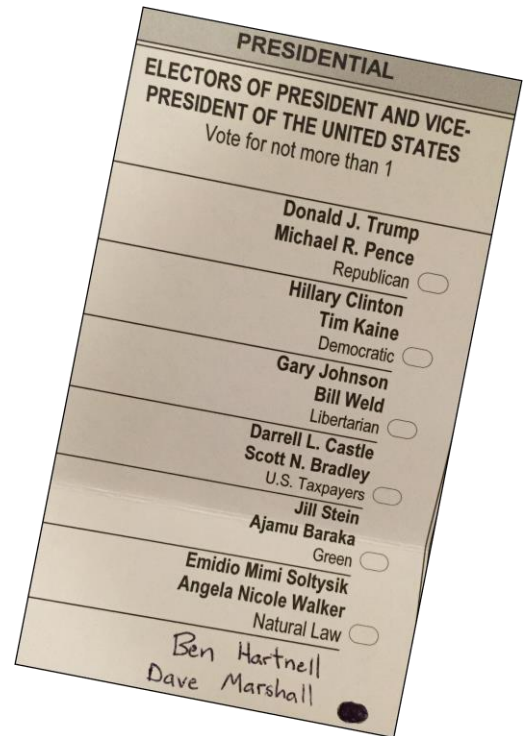
Welcome to an alternate universe (or maybe a parallel universe, depending on your understanding of how the whole space time continuum thing works) where YOU are now the 46<sup>th</sup> U.S. President. What are your campaign platforms? What are your top priorities? What do you need to do to keep the Military Industrial Complex at bay (other than any unnecessary trips to Dallas)? These questions... and a whole bunch more... are what await you on "Who Wants To Be A U.S. President?!"



## Here's what you're going to do:

Using the Presidential data base from Dr. Hartnell's Nutty History website ([NuttyHistory.com/us-presidents.html](http://NuttyHistory.com/us-presidents.html)), which is full of endless resources, including primary documents (don't you start groaning... you know you love these!) and Dr. Hartnell's campaign website ([ElectTheBeard.com](http://ElectTheBeard.com)), you will answer a few questions before filling in your "Candidate Platform" score card. Based upon your particular stance, you will need to find a President that shared the same beliefs as you. (You know, I always thought you were a William McKinley clone when it came to foreign policy...) This is more than just writing a random President's name on the line – you will need to cite your source and be able to PROVE why you and President Garfield would agree on immigration. Here are the 10 major categories used in ranking the Presidents (per the C-SPAN Presidential Survey).

- (1) "Public Persuasion"
- (2) "Crisis Leadership"
- (3) "Economic Management"
- (4) "Moral Authority"
- (5) "International Relations"
- (6) "Administrative Skills"
- (7) "Relations with Congress"
- (8) "Vision/Setting Agenda"
- (9) "Pursued Equal Justice for All"
- (10) "Performance Within Context of Times"



The following gives a brief description about these categories. When picking a Presidential platform, it is important to keep these categories in mind.

(1) **"Public Persuasion"**: The ability to persuade the public to their point of view is one of the most powerful weapons Presidents possess. It's also one that they need most to succeed. Many times Congress is forced to enact large parts of Presidential agendas because the public likes the President. However, if Presidents have a hard time connecting with the public, this can spell doom for their agenda and cause scandals to be blown out of proportion. How Presidents are perceived – or how they "charm" the American people – greatly affects their standing in the ranks.

(2) **"Crisis Leadership"**: The U.S. public looks to the President as its political and economic leader. If Presidents take office in the midst of an economic crisis (recession, depression, etc.), how did they handle it? Successful Presidents have to have a program ready to stimulate the economy if necessary... and they have to be able to pass it (which can be affected by their relationship with the public or Congress). "Crisis leadership" also refers to international (foreign) crises like wars and/or disputes. Did the country come out of the conflict stronger or weaker? Was the country greatly split over going to war? If the U.S. was attacked, how did the President respond? Was the President able to unite the country and guide it through the war? The way in which Presidents react to major crises (at home or abroad), greatly affects their standing with the public and their ranking by historians.

(3) **"Economic Management"**: Presidents are held responsible for the economic climate of the country, whether times are good or bad when they assume the role as Chief Executive. How was America's economy during the President's time in office? How much "credit" and how much "blame" does the President deserve for the economy? What were the President's economic policies? How was trade within the U.S. and with foreign countries? Were there new jobs being created, or were people out of work and starving? A booming economy can get Presidents re-elected even if they are facing scandals... but a bad economy is a one-way ticket to certain defeat at the polls.

(4) **“Moral Authority”**: What kind of person was the President? The attributes of morality (the President's character and integrity) are important when judging Presidents. Presidents that promote corruption, lie to the public, or are involved in scandals will obviously be ranked lower than an honest President. At the same time, Presidents that weren't very successful in office can restore their reputation and rise in the rankings by being true humanitarians and honest people.

(5) **“International Relations”**: Major international (foreign) policy success can make up for domestic (home) failure. Respect from foreign nations is very important. What types of treaties were signed with foreign nations? Did the public approve? In general, how did the world view the U.S. during the President's time in office? If there were repeated wars, what was the world's take on them? Did the world view the U.S. as the aggressor or as a country there to help?

(6) **“Administrative Skills”**: Simply put, did the President know how to act as President? Presidents have to make policy (domestic and foreign) for the country. Presidents outline their policies in their inaugural address, their annual State of the Union addresses, and especially in their budget proposals. Presidents are also measured by the people they appoint to public office. This area of evaluation includes appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court and to their Cabinets. Poor selection in these areas destroyed many Presidencies when the appointees turned out to be inept and corrupt. Appointing good, skilled people reflects positively on the President.

(7) **“Relations with Congress”**: Presidents don't call all of the shots. This means having to get along with a Congress full of people from a rival political party. How successful was the President in getting legislation through Congress? Did Congress get along with the President, or was there constant bickering and vetoing? The relationship that Presidents have with Congress can make their Presidencies a nightmare. If they're pushy and take a heavy-handed approach, Congress may resent them, and they're not likely to be successful. If Presidents are willing to lobby Congress and bargain and deal with its members, they can be successful. This is always made easier when public opinion is on the President's side, thus giving the President the upper hand with Congress.

(8) **“Vision/Setting Agenda”**: Some Presidents come into office without a vision of what they want to accomplish. For some, this is expected because they were catapulted into the Oval Office after a Presidential assassination or death. However, for those elected straight into office, not having a vision usually results in a failed Presidency. Without a master plan, the President is at the mercy of Congress, which can take over and make policies for the country. The more successful Presidents have had a vision and wanted to use the office of President to change the U.S. With a vision to guide them, Presidents tend to be more active as they try to implement their agendas. Even if they're not successful, they still get credit for having had a vision. What was the President's “goals”? Did the President achieve them?

(9) **“Pursued Equal Justice for All”**: In modern times, Presidential legislation has been judged according to the impact it has had on social equality in the U.S. Policies that benefit minorities and the poor enhance the President's ranking in the polls. How did the President treat minorities? Did the President push through legislation that helped the advancement of minorities? If slavery existed during the President's tenure, what stance did they take? Did they unite (or divide) America concerning the slavery issue? Did they support the Civil Rights Movement?

(10) **“Performance Within Context of Times”**: Obviously, the political issues during the early days of the U.S. versus today are so drastically different that many of the early Presidents lose points when judged through modern day “standards” (like the category “Pursued Equal Justice for All”). Certainly, slavery is no longer an issue today, which means it isn't part of a modern-day President's policy whereas it might have been the only issue discussed when a President was in office. For reasons such as that, this category is factored into the President's overall ranking. All things considered, how did the President do with what they had available to them at the time? While not necessarily correct when viewed by historians today, were the President's appointments, decisions, policies, and legislation “in line” with the status quo of their day?

Name:

Per:



**The Campaign Issues**

*Click on an issue below to access polls specific to each category. Remember, your votes help create the campaign platform for the SPARTY PARTY... and America!*



Social Issues



Environmental Issues



Economic Issues



Domestic Issues



Health Care Issues



Foreign Policy Issues

Way to go. You just HAD to win those swing states and pull off a miraculous win in the Electoral College, didn't you? Not even your mother voted for you (at least that's what she said on the news... something about not doing your chores serving as an indicator that you couldn't run the "Free World"...). Anywho, here are the keys to the Oval Office. Good luck with that mess.

Go to **ElectTheBeard.com** and locate the 9 critical campaign issues: *social, environmental, economic, domestic, health care, foreign policy, education, electoral, and immigration*. Select **4** of these issues to explore. After familiarizing yourself with these categories, select **1** specific poll question from each (like gun laws)... provide your personal stance... and then track down which U.S. President might agree with you and WHY. Understandably, the WHY part is trickier than you think because it requires you to do some actual research into the platforms of past Presidents. But never fear! Dr. Hartnell will provide you with all the necessary links to letters, documents, newspaper articles, and every imaginable resource for every President!

## Platform #1:

---

Poll Question

Your stance:

Which President agrees?

PROVE IT:

## Platform #2:

---

Poll Question

Your stance:

Which President agrees?

PROVE IT:



## Platform #3:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Poll Question

Your stance:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which President agrees?

PROVE IT:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Platform #4:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Poll Question

Your stance:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which President agrees?

PROVE IT:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 2016 Presidential Campaign Quick Questions:

The following questions will be used to start classroom dialogue about Dr. Hartnell's run for the White House in 2016. Visit his campaign website ([ElectTheBeard.com](http://ElectTheBeard.com)) and click on "Student Resources". Check out the interviews, advertisements, campaign letters, Certificates of Ascertainment, and narrative about the process. Place your answers on the back of this page and have them ready for discussion.

1. Why was Dr. Hartnell unable to get his name on the actual ballot?
2. Describe the process of becoming a write-in candidate in Ohio.
3. In how many states was Dr. Hartnell an "official" write-in candidate?
4. Which of Dr. Hartnell's interviews helped his campaign the most? The least?
5. What argument did Dr. Hartnell make when people said voting for him (or any third party candidate) was "throwing their vote away"?
6. What was Dr. Hartnell's only shot to win the election? (Think: #No270)
7. How much money did Dr. Hartnell spend on his campaign?
8. How many Popular Votes did Dr. Hartnell receive? How many Electoral Votes?
9. Name 3 major obstacles faced by a write-in candidate.
10. Name 3 ways Dr. Hartnell believes his campaign made an impact.