



## CCN Election Assignment Templates

### **Assignment 1: Profiling first-time and/or young voter attitudes on campus**

The Center for Community News' Election & Democracy Program has created a series of sample templates for faculty to give to students. Faculty are welcome to use any and all of these and amend them as they see fit for their classes.

**When to assign this project:** Within the first two weeks of the fall semester

**Why:** Young voters are expected to be pivotal in this election. This assignment is worthy of being published in local papers.

**How:** Students can first submit their report for a grade as a simple, 200 to 400-word vignette, depending on how many people they interview for the assignment. Afterward, you and your students can collaborate on a group project where all their findings are compiled into one feature published in a real newspaper.

**Bonus:** Students can work together to create a "scorecard" of issues that students on campus appear to care the most about.

For any questions, comments or suggestions, email CCN Program Coordinator Sarah Gamard [sarah.gamard@uvm.edu](mailto:sarah.gamard@uvm.edu).

## Assignment: Profiling first-time, young voter attitudes on campus

### Requirements:

- You must conduct **at least one** man-on-the-street interview with another student on campus about their election plans, and write a short news story based on that.
- The story must include:
  - Interviewee's full name, their year (e.g. freshman), and their major
  - A brief summary of their voter attitudes and at least one quote
- Note: You *cannot* interview someone you already know.
- Word length: Minimum 200 words
- Deadline: XXX

### QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK:

- *Do you plan to vote in this election? Why or why not?*
- *Do you know where or how to vote?*
- *What are the three most important issues to you in this election?*
- *Who do you plan to vote for?*
- *Which races are you paying attention to? Are you paying attention to local races or just the presidential race?*

### Tips for faculty:

- One way to make sure students do these man-on-the-street interviews properly is by using class time to walk around campus and find an interviewee; this may help prevent them from being tempted to just interview a friend or someone in their dorm.