



CCN Election Assignment Templates

Assignment 2: Profiling voter attitudes in underserved communities off-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.

For any questions, comments or suggestions, email Program Coordinator Sarah Gamard at sarah.gamard@uvm.edu.

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

Why: Voters in underserved communities close to campus may not currently be part of your professional newsrooms' local news coverage.

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/alternative project: Students can work together to create a "scorecard" of issues that these voters appear to care the most about.

Assignment: Profiling voter attitudes in underserved communities off-campus

Requirements:

- For this assignment, 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.
- Note: You cannot interview a student you already know!
- The story must include:
 - Interviewee's full name, the year they are in college (e.g. freshman), and major
 - At least one piece of data from an official source related to voting or issues important to young voters this election season.
- Word length: Minimum 400 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?*

Later this semester, everyone in the class will compile their story into a larger collaboration story with all our findings.

Tips for faculty:

- One way to make sure students do these man-on-the-street interviews properly is by using class time to take a trip to a nearby neighborhood.