

# Presidential Qualifications

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## Objective:

Students will consider what qualifies a person to be president.

## Students will:

- examine the role of president
  - develop critical thinking skills
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## Resources/Materials:

- [2020election.procon.org](http://2020election.procon.org)
  - Section 1 of the “[How to Become the US President](#)” resource (includes the necessary sections of the Constitution)
  - internet access
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## Preparation:

- Teachers may want to prepare their preferred lecture or activity on the constitutional requirements to be president.
  - This lesson plan can be paired with the “Presidential Electability” lesson plan to compare and contrast whether the most electable candidate is the most qualified candidate for the job.
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## Activity:

1. Explore the constitutional requirements to be president with students.
2. As a class, have students brainstorm a list of qualifications to be president beyond those in the constitution.
3. In small groups, have students rank all of the brainstormed qualifications, including which lower-ranked qualifications they would excuse, if any.
4. Have students examine the biographies of each candidate (or a select few) on [2020election.procon.org](http://2020election.procon.org). and determine which (if any) candidates meet their criteria for the position.
5. Students may report their findings in a brief oral report to the class.

6. Have students consider and discuss why some qualifications may be more important to certain groups.
  7. Students may also:
    - a. Write a job ad for the POTUS position using their brainstormed qualifications.
    - b. Explore who else might be qualified to be President--local leaders, celebrities, or family members.
    - c. Consider what path they would take to become the most qualified president for the job.
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### **Evaluation:**

1. Understanding of role of president
2. Critical thinking skills
3. Quality of report