

2022 Tenacity Challenge History/Social Science Argument: Voting Safeguards or Voter Suppression?

History Argument Guidelines

Two or more team members will prepare the history argument and will present it on the Challenge Day before a panel of judges. The argument, which should address the prompt below, should be 6 to 10 minutes in length. Please see below for specific requirements.

Context

Prior to this year's presidential election, but greatly accelerated since, many states have enacted new voting laws. Their supporters argue that they are necessary to prevent voter fraud, while their opponents argue that they are intended to suppress the vote of African-American and Latinx citizens. Both claim that the future of democracy itself is at stake.

Major Thesis Question: Are the new voting laws (e.g., in Texas and Georgia) intended to prevent voter fraud, as their supporters allege, or impede African-American and Latinx voting, as their opponents allege?

Part I: Citing the specific provisions of one or two of these recently passed voting laws, how will you determine their intent? Your analysis should include an examination of:

- The lawmakers' rationales and their opponents' arguments
- historical comparisons
- likely impact
- qualitative and quantitative data where useful, and
- political context

Part II (Approximately 10% to 15% of your argument) If you take the first position, what do you recommend to further address your concerns about voter fraud. If you take the second position, what do you recommend needs to be done in order to address the voter suppression?

Requirements

Please refer to the specific requirements below:

- 1. Be sure to review the rubric before you begin your research**
2. Presentation length 6-10 minutes
3. Visual aids may be used
4. Minimum of two face to face, telephone or Skype interviews with people from the following categories:
 - Republican and/or Democratic State Representatives from the states where these laws are being or have been passed
 - Voting Rights organizations
 - Political activists who believe that the presidential election was stolen
 - Political activists who believe that the presidential election was legitimate

On the day of the event, you will submit a list of sources used in the development of your argument. If the list of sources is not included, 15 points will be deducted from the final score. If the list of sources is submitted but does not contain your interviews, 10 points will be deducted from final score. See scoring rubric.