

LESSON PLAN: Bringing Out the Vote

Common reasons for low participation in the United States:

- Americans feel confident in the stability of their system, so they are unmotivated to get involved in politics - especially when times are good.
- Americans are lazy; they have it too easy.
- It is difficult to register and to vote on a work day. (In many countries, votes are taken on weekend days.)
- Americans are cynical about outcomes in a two party system.
- Americans are cynical about politics and politicians altogether.
- TV election coverage on Election Day concludes outcomes early, and discourages voting later in the day.
- Campaigns are much too long in the U.S., and people tire of the whole thing.
- People feel that only one vote can't count much.