

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

### STORY

**Iranian Presidential Election Erupts in Protest**, 06/16/2009

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june09/iran\\_06-16.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june09/iran_06-16.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

**1) Why are there protests in the streets of Tehran, Iran?**

**2) What has been Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's response? Why is that important?**

**3. What has been the U.S. government response?**

**4. What percentage of Iranian voters cast ballots on election day?**

**5. Who is President Ahmadinejad's base support?**

**6. Why is it ironic that the opposition leader, Mr. Mousavi is a reform candidate?**

**7. Why did the Iranian government limit some technologies during the election? What was the result?**

**8. When did Iran become an Islamic Republic?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Does it surprise you that so many people would march in the streets over elections? Why or why not? Do you think that the same could happen in the United States?**

**2. Does the vote outcome surprise you? Why or why not?**

**3. There are accusations of vote tampering; do you think this happens in most elections?**

**4. Mr. Mousavi was a hard liner when he was prime minister, do you think that he should be able to call himself a reformer now? Why or why not?**

**5. From what you know of the candidates, who would you vote for?**

**6. In the United States we have an Electoral College so elections are not a strict vote count; do you think this is a good idea? What might be some pros and cons of this system compared with Iran's?**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra ([extra@newshour.org](mailto:extra@newshour.org)). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.