



Online Discussion Board

Should young people follow politics?

10-16-2013, 03:06 PM

Kristen

Of course! It's important for young people to follow politics. The people who are elected now (by adults) will make laws that affect the children of today. Don't you think that those children should know what's going on? They should be active to help shape the country the way they want it!

10-16-2013, 03:20 PM

Brian

Kristen... I don't like the term "follow politics". It's easy for a young person to be swayed by a political speech, or jump on some cause or issue without completely understanding it. Instead, children should "learn the foundations of democracy", which includes the constitution, the rights of citizens, and the workings of our government. If they really understand those concepts (and there are a lot of adults who don't), then the politics will come later.

10-16-2013, 04:31 PM

Jerome

Brian, I'm with you... only I'm going to take it a step further. Understanding the "foundations of democracy" is one thing, but before children can become useful citizens—and before they need to worry about "politics"—they need to just learn how the world works. They need to learn simple lessons about how to treat other people, how to take responsibility for your actions, and what it means to be a good person. If anything, following politics (and politicians) too closely can interfere with that learning curve.

10-16-2013, 04:35 PM

DeeDee

Like anything else, you don't want to force something onto a child. But if a young person takes an interest in political issues and wants to become active and to promote change... how can you possibly argue that that's a bad thing!?

10-16-2013, 04:39 PM

Michael

Right on DeeDee! When young people follow politics, they are making an extra effort to get informed. That should always be encouraged! It will help them develop a social conscience and learn that not everything they hear on the playground is the truth.