



## **ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS FOR DOMESTIC POLICY**

- 1) How should we define the “Common Good” and how can young people help one another to work for it?
- 2) Should government take an active or passive role in our economy and society?
- 3) To what extent should wealth increase a citizen’s influence and power in a democracy?
- 4) How should power and wealth be distributed in our society and what role should government play in that distribution?
- 5) Do citizens have a duty to dissent against government policies they consider to be unjust or illegitimate?
- 6) What human rights should be protected by the government, and which should people be responsible for protecting for themselves?
- 7) Since patriots put country and the Common Good before self, how can we increase patriotism in our society?
- 8) How should we balance the need for unity with respect for diversity?
- 9) How should we balance individual freedoms with society’s need for order and security? In other words, where do your rights end and another’s start?
- 10) How should economic progress be balanced with social justice? Are these two ideas necessarily mutually exclusive?
- 11) Should government make up for past wrongs and how can it do so?
- 12) What philosophical standards should be used to determine right and wrong in American politics and society?
- 13) How do governments earn and keep legitimacy (respect)?
- 14) Is democracy compatible with the huge imbalances in wealth that result from our economic system of capitalism?
- 15) What should the role of advocacy and dissent (protest) be in our society and how should we view them? (or “when should we participate in them?” which is better?)
- 16) Does and should government have a responsibility to provide equal opportunity to all citizens?
- 17) What kinds of dissent are (and are not) acceptable for groups to use in protecting citizens rights? Is violent, unlawful dissent ever justified?
- 18) How much influence should religious groups have in determining the decisions our government makes?

**FLIP THE PAGE FOR FOREIGN POLICY ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**



## **ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY**

- 1) How should power and wealth be distributed among nations?
- 2) Do you, as a US citizen &/or resident, have an ethical obligation to work for the Common Good among nations and within other nations?
- 3) Should the US lean towards passive isolationism or active interventionism?
- 4) Should the US lean towards an opportunistic foreign policy based on power or towards a principled foreign policy? Or:
- 5) What should be the primary determinant (motivator) of US foreign policy goals: Our national self-interest or the “interests” of the entire world?
- 6) Under what circumstances should the US feel justified attacking and waging war on other nations? (Consider just war theory.)
- 7) What philosophical standards should be used to determine “right” and “wrong” in American foreign policy?
- 8) How should the US government balance its duty to serve the economic interests of its citizens with its moral responsibility to act decently in the world?
- 9) Is the United Nations good or bad for US interests?
- 10) Does the US have an ethical responsibility to stay in the UN?
- 11) How much dissent should the US allow in times of war?
- 12) How should we balance the need for security (from terrorists, etc.) and stability at home with the need to protect constitutional civil liberties?
- 13) What are the dangers of appeasement, of letting other nations off the hook when they violate international law?
- 14) Who produces propaganda in America and how can the public avoid being manipulated by it?