

March 10, 2008, Principal's Challenge:

Write a very short essay explaining what change you would initiate if you became the United States' President.

It must be submitted digitally.

(These essays are shown in order of receipt.)

If I were the United States' president, I would like to deal with many issues. I think the most important ones are poverty, hunger, education, and health care.

To solve the problem of poverty I would create jobs that would let every person work and earn a better wage. I would give big tax breaks to the lower income families and tax the rich businesses more. I would offer low income housing and programs where a person could be in a service job, like helping in the community to earn money. I would make programs where you could work and earn credit by helping others—working in a school or hospital or helping to create a better environment. Service jobs that would improve the quality of daily life for everybody would also give an opportunity for everyone to work and make things better.

I think it is great that we send so much money to other countries to help them out, but I also think that we should spend our money here at home first. How can we send money to another country when there are so many people right here who are hungry? I would allow our farmers and all of our food producers to make as much food as possible. Then, I would lower the prices and set up programs so that everyone in this country could have food to eat. We are a rich country, and no one should go hungry. I would start a program where every child had food every day given to them in the school that they attend. I would have free kitchens and free meal deliveries for those who could not afford to buy their own food. I would make grocery stores and restaurants give a percentage of their profits to fund the free food programs.

I think that everybody should have a free education all the way through college. I would make school mandatory for every child, beginning at

kindergarten. If people are educated, they will do better, be better citizens, and contribute to our country's well-being. The free education would be funded by the government from all the taxes that it collects. I

would pay all teachers really high salaries. At the end of college, I would ask that each student give back two years of service to help. If they were a doctor, then they would work in a hospital, if they were a teacher, then they would work in a school. They would be paid for the two years of service. If everybody had a good education, we would not have a lot of the problems that we now have.

When people get sick, they need to be able to see a doctor. They need medicine. I would make healthcare free to everyone. The hospitals would be paid for by the government.

Where is the government going to get all the money to feed everybody, educate all the children, and help all the poor people? We will not ever go to war again and all the money that we now spend on war we will spend to help our country and feed everybody and take care of everybody and educate everybody.

-R.K. 7th Grade

If I were to be elected president of the United States in this year's 2008 election, I would do a few things in the white house. For this election year, the theme was "Change". If you ask me, change is good. Our country needs a lot of change.

First, we need to help start giving Iraq more freedom, rights for its people, and a constitution. The people of Iraq are having a hard time trying to piece together the parts they need to become the kind of country they want. Iraq needs strong leaders so that, along with the U.S. and the United Nations, they can have a constitution.

Next, we need to help the people in Africa. Africa is a very poor continent, with many diseases. Some diseases include AIDS, schistosomiasis, trachoma, and river-blindness. We need to help by giving money for research on these diseases and try to wipe them out.

Another thing I would try to make more jobs for the people right here in America. When these jobs are done, you see, the once unemployed will be able to afford food, shelter, and clothing. I would also like to have affordable housing rates so that it will be easier for people to rent or buy a home.

I also do not accept smoking and drugs. Drugs are wrong (not the drugs for good health, but drugs for wrong doing, such as Crystallmeth Enfedimein). I would like to make laws that stop people from using these drugs to ruin their lives. One of the things I want to be done is drug testing for teachers. Teachers will be tested to see if they have been taking drugs or alcohol. Smoking is also one of the things I would like to rid from the world. I would like to make commercials or ads about the effects of smoking (My phrase would be "Clear the Smoke, America"). Yellow teeth, bad breath, and lung disease are just a few affects from smoking. We could have an education program to teach people about the effects of smoking. In addition, we can teach people to have a random drug testing for each state. If somebody is to be found with drugs, or over-the-limit alcohol drinking, they should be arrested.

All these things I will do. These are my goals if I were to become president of the United States of America from 2008 – 2012, and who knows, maybe even another term!

A.P. 7th Grade

If I became president of the United States I would try my best to change things for the better. Things such as crime, poverty, homelessness, and health would be the most important to me. I would work with Congress to make these things happen.

First, I would try to change our country's poverty and crime rates and try to decrease them a lot. I would also try to help the unemployment rate go down because that would help bring down the poverty rate and possibly the crime rate. I would focus on getting people homes and helping those in debt to settle their troubles. I also think that if we help poor people by giving them enough money to get them a job, then they can work to support

themselves. If they decide to not try to get a job and spend the money on luxuries, then we will stop giving them money.

Second, I would try to change some laws, make new ones, and enforce good laws. For example, I would make smoking illegal because it is very unhealthy and too expensive, and in the end, all you are paying for is a chance to die sooner. I would also try to focus police more on harmful crimes and drugs than on burglaries and hold-ups. I would also try to make a law saying you could only consume alcohol on your own property.

Third, I would try to make holidays of things like highway clean-up days and drives for cancer and homeless people. I would also try to have many fundraisers to help others. I think I can change the way we live by making the country better and helping out in the community.

If I became president, I would do many things, but the main thing I would focus on is health and homelessness. I want you to remember that, in my view, the most important people in this country are the citizens who vote for its leaders and maintain jobs to help the country grow.

R.G. 7th Grade

If I was president I would make a house for all of the people that live on the streets, and they would be able to live in that house. The homeless people could live here by their own free will. I would make it so that, if people were caught drunk driving, they would lose their license for one month. I would make it so that we would not have to pay fewer taxes. When people start fights or are watching the fight at school and tape it, those people would all get suspended or expelled. If people are caught selling drugs, then they would be sent to prison for the rest of their life, but if they chose to die, then they would be put to death. They would be put to death by their choice of electric chair or by a shot.

When you try to steal stuff from a store, then you would get arrested for a robbery, and you would stay in jail for three years. Then you would have to go to treatment for 2 months. When you buy things, there would be a little higher tax. I

would make more churches around the United States. I would make more libraries around the United States of America. When you fly on a airplane, and you make trouble, then you would go to jail for the rest of your life. When you attempt murder then you would go to a different state so that you can die there.

I will make it so that kids don't have to go to school on Fridays, but then you will have a longer school day on Monday from 7:00am – 4:00 pm. I will make it so that the people fighting in the war will have a little break by having other states go to the war, and the people from the state in that war will come back to their home for 3-4 months. Kids will be able to use cell phones during school hours. People who have farms and sell food to the stores will get 10% more money. Fewer stores in Hawaii will go over places like forests. Kids can watch rated pg-13 by them with someone 12 or older. I will make it so that kids have to play their instruments in one place, so that people won't complain about kids playing their music too loud. The internet will remain free. You will not have to put in a password if you want to use wi-fi. Movies will not cost as much to watch at the theaters. I will try to make *Adult Swim* its own channel, so that kids can watch regular cartoons at night and not have to watch *Adult Swim* at night.

There are many things that I want to do but I think that we should all be able to do whatever we want to do.

D.M. 7th Grade

The crowd is going wild as pounds of confetti are being dropped on our new president, me. She is now walking down to give her acceptance speech. She is the first female president; let's see what changes she is going to make and what problems she going to solve.

"First of all, I would not like to take the troops out of Iraq fully, but give them more breaks. I'll change the number of kids who smoke, and last I'll stop using too much energy.

As a new president, I feel the same way about the people in Iraq. I do not like the soldiers in Iraq. If I let them come home, I am scared there may not be a home in a couple of years or even

months. I would just like to give them a break like kids do in school for summer. I would like to have something where we take one troop out and stick another one in and then keep switching so everyone gets a break. I would like to have kids and families have a troop buddy, so whenever it is a holiday or it is a troop's birthday I would like a family or kids do something.

I will reduce the number of people who smoke. I don't need to change the adult's rights to smoke because our America is a free country. Although the number of kids eighteen and younger get sick from smoking themselves or getting second hand smoke from the people around them. This will not be a very easy thing to change, and I know it will never be 100%, but I can start by removing all nicotine in stores from view and move them to another room. I would like to change the age for smoking to twenty-one years old. I would also like to get stricter on the law for underage smoking and people who influence underage people too.

Energy, energy, energy that is all people use, that is what our land runs on, but we do not have to use that much energy as we normally do. For many people it is hard to cut down on electricity or water. So I think we should make Special water sources that people only have a limited access. For electricity we already have special light bulbs, but not everyone buys them. I would like to limit the source of the higher electricity and replace it with the better light bulbs. This is not the worst of our problems of it could get even worst and I would like to fix it before it gets any farther. Just like me I use a lot of energy but it everyone worked together I think we could make a difference.

I am your new president and I plan to take care of everyone as if they were my own, and this land is and will always be my own. I plan to solve these problems and help my people. The main changes I will accomplish are: helping the troops in Iraq, cutting down the number kid smokers in the US, and use less energy around the world.

I will accomplish these until my next president race. Now as your new president I am ready to take a stand and fix this stuff, as your friend and your president."

C.F. 7th Grade

Today I'll be interviewed by many people about what I will change in the United States because I was elected president. As the president, I will have to give a lot of speeches. This is the speech I am going to give:

"I am a Democratic president. I am a kind and honest person you can trust. The first thing I'll change is the soldiers in Iraq. To do that, I will make the soldiers in Iraq have more quality time with their family because it's been so long that they haven't seen their families and pay them more because they did so much for our country.

Our goods are more expensive nowadays. I would want to get along with other countries, so that the goods that we trade with them would be cheaper. For example our gas prices have gone up a lot this year because we don't get along with them very well.

Today people have been using steroids for many reasons. I would want to stop the illegal use of steroids. I also want to stop the steroid abuse because it is illegal to use it in all sports and it can make you have liver cancer, heart disease, and it can stop the lengthening of bones resulting in stunted growth.

I would send more care packages to other countries and some money to the homeless because whenever I look at them I feel so sorry and sad. I feel that I have things that they don't have. They always have to look for food in the trash that people have eaten or touched and ask for money on the side of the road and sidewalk. To fix that, I will ask companies to donate some money and raise it to help them.

I would like to stop building construction in Hawai'i because our community is so small, and we don't have a lot of room like the mainland. The mainland has a ton of space, so they can build anything they want over there. To make this stop, I would write them a note and ask them to stop this because Hawai'i is supposed to be a tropical paradise, not an island full of construction. This will ruin our environment.

Last, I would reduce pollution. I would stop people from polluting because it hurts our environment and the sea creatures who live down in

the water. If they eat plastic or rubbish, they would die. To fix this, I would want big companies who have smoke coming out of their chimney to stop that because it produces acid rain, and this ruins the nature and the environment.

There are many things to change in this world, but I would change these as president.

"Just remember all...that words are powerful, so very powerful, that it can change attitudes (for the better or for the worse), with or without provocation. They can be triggers, reminders, movers, and emotive...Be kind with your words and listen too." -Unknown Author

T.M. 6th Grade 03/09/08

Many People in the world don't realize that there are people in our country who don't know what a home is like. They don't even appreciate the things that they have.

There is a similar Biblical story with the Israelites. God had given them this wonderful land. But there was always something that some people didn't like. They didn't appreciate the land that God had given them so all they did was complain. In some parts of the U.S.A., people want to get more money; so, they raise the prices on things. The majority of these things are the things that we need such as food, water, clothing, and shelter. These things are practically unaffordable and we often take them for granted. There are others who experience the following things: one meal a day, no technology, bathing in well water, lack of activity outside, and bad education.

These people can't afford these things because they are poor. If I were President of the United States, I would try to help these people. I would start with the poorest states in our country and make sure that there are enough jobs. People who were not get jobs. I would make sure that there is a enough shelters in those states and these people know about it. The people who live in the middle of town, I would announce on the radio the T.V. or a banner tied to a plane, that there would be an emergency food drop Right in the middle of nowhere. A large percentage of these people get sick or badly injured and can't afford the good medical

care. I would make sure that these people get the best medical attention and I would send an immediate search and rescue team to look for any people in need of help. Also education is an important part of life. So I would make sure that their kids can get the best education. Education is important because it affects their knowledge and how they turn out as adults. Also because if they don't get good education they won't know how life is going to treat them in the real world. And some kids take for granted that there will always be someone to hold there hand when they have problems.

Another thing I would do is build donation centers in the most highly populated and richest states. I would allow them to donate blankets, toys, money, and household items. All these things will be put in boxes and sent to poor states. One of the last things that I would do to keep these problems subtle is to announce to Americans that there are people in our country aren't like us. They can't afford to go to a good restaurant everyday or watch T.V. or have a good meal. I would ask people nicely to do whatever they can to help those who are less fortunate. But I wouldn't force anyone to do anything because they wouldn't feel comfortable doing it. But I would try to convince to help by telling them that it's generous, it's a good thing to do, and it saves lives. And I would tell them that if they do this it makes them a good person. Plus, if they enjoy doing this and making people happy they will want to convince others to help.

My final opinion that I want to say is that in the real world there are people who aren't like us and don't really have profitable property. They can't afford many things in the world. What some people don't understand about the real world is that, not everything is free. Whenever you get something there is always a catch to it. Those who are poor can't afford that catch, but with a helping hand, they can do almost anything. Other people in the world may look at their lives and say that they have nothing, but the truth is, whenever other people help them, they have everything.

Which is why if I was The President I would do everything I can to help these people. These people need help from anyone who can help them. I would use all my power until there is not a

single breath left in me just to help these people. I want to make sure that these people get all the following things that I have listed in this essay.

These people really need it, because if I can help them, then so can anyone else, and these people will never go hungry, or their kids will get good education, they can survive, get good medical care, you name it! They will have everything they need!

C.A. 7th Grade 03/09/08

The president, of the United States of America shall soon be me. When I am finally the president, I will take good care of America and all Americans' biggest troubles and concerns first, and do it honestly while maintaining all the freedom we have. As president I shall also solve the situation in Iraq by confronting them, to help them become a better country that will make up with all the other countries with whom they declared war. Then I will attempt to make sure that no children will be left behind with no mother or father. As president I will also reduce the amount of homeless on the streets so that our beaches or towns are not polluted very badly. I would even, if needed, make sure that no killer is to be killed once caught, for they are also human, they have the right to live, and all their loved ones will miss them. I will, as the president, change all public schools' rules so that the students will not fight with each other for I believe that everyone should get a good education and not fear going to school. I promise that I will do everything in my power to make all citizens of the United States of America happy.

You may wonder why a thirteen-year-old may want to become president of the United States. It is because I care about my peers and my family, even the people I said that I hate or people I don't even know. Then you may ask why I care about the people I hate? Not everyone is perfect, and everyone deserves unlimited chances.

H.O. 7th Grade 03/09/08

The audience is cheering as the democratic candidate TC is coming to explain what she would do if she became the president of the United States.

"Hi, I am TC and I want to be the next president of the United States. If I was the next president I would make three changes. I would take most of the soldiers out of Iraq and Afghanistan, support the groups that are trying to stop global warming, and create a better health care system by making the government responsible for our health.

First, I would take most of the soldiers out of Iraq and Afghanistan. Many soldiers have risked their lives to protect us for a long time, and lots of innocent people in Iraq are getting hurt. Mistakes that we made caused a lot of problems. However if we just take the soldiers out of Iraq and Afghanistan, it could be a better place. I believe that the United States shouldn't but in with Iraq or Afghanistan. Also, soldiers wouldn't have to come and go when seeing their families. I also feel the people in Iraq are responsible for their own problems. Soldiers have done everything to protect us and the innocent people in Iraq for a long time. We shouldn't interfere with problems that haven't started yet.

Second, I would support the groups that are trying to stop global warming, with the equipment to discover helpful information on how to stop global warming. Global warming is a gradual increase in the earth's temperature. It is caused by pollution, population, and the release of Methane gas. Global warming is hurting the environment for animals like polar bears. Ice is melting and it's hard for the polar bears to make its way around land. So, I want to help by supporting groups that are trying to find out about how to stop global warming, by giving them the right equipment to find information on how to stop global warming. I also want to enforce certain laws to try and prevent pollution or any harmful gases that is hurting the environment.

Third, I would create a better health care system. Many people struggle to pay for their medical bills while some people are already in debt, by trying to pay off other bills. Everything is getting expensive like gas, clothes, and much more. We need money to afford these things and be able to pay off our bills, but it's just too hard. If I were president, I would make the government responsible

for our health care. Then it would be easier to pay for all the things that we need.

When I become president I will make three changes. I will take most of the soldiers out of Iraq and Afghanistan, support groups that are trying to stop global warming, and create a better health care system."

T.C. 8th Grade 03/09/08

Hello, my name is KB, and I am the president of the United States. It is my duty to help you make this world a better place. I will go to help orphans find parents suitable for them. I want everyone to have a family to go home to and tell what a great day they had. No one will be lonely when Jesus Christ our Lord is there for you. He is your main priority in life. He wants you to go to heaven and live evermore in his divine gates. This is where you can worship him forever. I want everyone to be a Christian and to except Him as their Lord and Savior.

When I was in Genovia, the queen was helping people and telling them that she wants "change" in her country. She wanted her country to be the home of the brave and this is all I am trying to do. I am making it possible for this country the United States to be a country of change. I also want this country to be free. In Hawaii I want the Hawaiians to have their rights, and people in other countries should have their rights. I am just trying to make this world a superior place to live in.

When I was being elected to become president, I didn't have faith, and I thought I would not be voted for, but I prayed and asked God for faith, wisdom, and knowledge to bring me success. What do you know?...I am the president, and I am sitting here in my office thinking how much God means to me and well he means a lot. Without God you are a sinner with a bad attitude towards you and all your friends and family. Don't forget God is always with you, even until the end of the world.

Thank you very much.

K.B. 7th Grade 03/09/08

KS is the new president of the United States, and today is his first day on the job. He has promised to love and care for all of the people of this great nation, he promised to make this great land flourish to its fullest. He said he would discuss the matter of the war, and show his and other people's opinions of the war in Iraq. He promised not to only ask the public opinion on the war, but the soldiers themselves who actually have to experience this violent struggle. He also promised to do the best he can to speed up those annoying security lines at the airport by introducing faster more reliable security check points so for once you actually be on time for your flight. He also said that he would contribute a fare amount of our tax money to help rid the environment of pollution by supporting the hybrid vehicles, he promised to dedicate his time, money, and effort to convince businesses and the people to carpool with fellow co-workers.

KS also said that he would never keep secrets from the people and always update the people on the latest laws, and regulations. He said "I promise to understand the people not only understand but help them in their individual home so that they can have the say. Some people say that this president by far is the best we've ever had. God Bless America!

K.S. 8th Grade 03/10/08

Thank you all for electing me President of the United States! In my term of office, I'll make these changes: I will secure the borders and reduce poverty.

The first thing I will do as President is secure the borders, a saying for this is: a good fence makes good neighbors. This means with a fence you can keep the differences apart but without a fence they are open to seeing how they lived. Imagine you had nice well kept yard but your neighbors had weeds all over their yard; so, if people come over to see your yard, but then they think it's not very good when they see your badly kept neighbor's yard. This is important because once we have a good boundary of where our land ends, we can stay off their land, and they can stay off our land. Imagine if you owned land by the border, you wouldn't want people to be walking across your land whenever they

feel like it. They might be coming over here to become another homeless person to get the governments handouts.

Which brings me to my next change: America's poverty is not much when you compare it to other countries but we still have poverty. There is poverty all over the world but communism is not helping because if you keep giving them what they need, they get lazy and will never work if given a chance. There is also a proverb for this: if you give a guy a fish he has one meal, teach a guy how to fish and he will always have a meal. What this means is you can't just keep giving him stuff because he will never do anything for himself, but if you teach him how to get food he will have the knowledge to sustain himself.

The way you deal with that is don't give them food, just bring a big city bus down to where they live and check off every one who is getting food from the government and tell them to get on the bus. Then, you take them down to a park or beach; put them to work cleaning the public bathrooms and picking up trash on the beach. It makes the community look better and gives them a job so they have to work for their food. With them doing labor they might think about going back and getting an education so they can get a job that doesn't involve labor. I will stop poverty this way in America and will reduce the city and state labor deficits.

These are all the things I am going to do as President.

K.F. 7th Grade 03/10/08

Being president is a great opportunity because you can change problems that you think that aren't right. If I were president, I would try to make peace with Iraq and send all the troops home to their families, I would also build homeless shelters for people living on the beaches and on the streets, and I would also change the rules and the consequences for troubled public school people.

First of all, if I were president, I would try to make peace with Iraq and send all the soldiers home to family and friends. I don't think it is right to have war with other countries. It just makes the world an unfriendly place! People say they would

like peace on earth, where we can call everyone our friends. We can start by ending the war with Iraq and take one step farther to making peace on earth.

Another thing I would do is build homeless shelters for the people who have to live on the beach and on the streets. Homelessness in the U.S. is a bad problem. It doesn't make our beaches nice, and the streets are filled with people begging for money and food. We can start to change that problem by building shelters for people who live without shelter and food. That doesn't mean that the homeless shelter is going to be filled with careless people. Some people living on the beach and on the streets actually care what they want to do in the future.

Another problem I want to change is the rules and consequences for public school kids who make trouble. Not all kids in public school are bad, but those who are troublesome, they are making a bad learning environment for kids who really want to learn and have a good education. Changing the rules and the consequences of public schools will hopefully change the attitudes of kids who are troubled.

If I were president, I would change these things. I would like to change much more, but there can only be a certain amount done. Are you ready for change?

E.P. 7th Grade 03/10/08