

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.)

The presidency: elections, politicians, democracies, and much more....all the things the president of the United States does or hears about.

What would you do if you became the president of the United States? Well, I know what I would do.

There are many things wrong with the United States. There are so much that I could type a whole list, but I won't do that because you might get bored. I am only going to talk about one problem today. That problem is homelessness.

Homeless people are what we call people that live on the beach, in parks, under bridges and freeways, or in their cars. Today I did some research about homeless people. "In the year 2005, there were about 744,000 homeless in America." They say, "a majority of the homeless were single adults, and 41 percent were families." (the information is from this website, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16564208>). So, after I gave you a little bit of information, what do you think about problem of the homeless in America?

By now I think you got my idea...when I am president I would like to lessen or get rid of the homelessness problem. I would provide a home for them; give them a job option, and maybe some money to start them off. If I became president, I would do these things. I hope that when I do these things, the homeless population will go down.

D.G. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/09/08

I drive by and see a box with a cart next to it filled with garbage bags. Another person left without care or help to get a home or a job. I start to cry. Where is my tax money actually going to? Why is this person not getting any help? Bypassers and rubber-neckers wonder why this homeless is missing a leg or an arm. Sorrow is overflowing the spectators. Why can't we request our money to be sent for some healthcare?

George Bush's promises toward healthcare and the homeless were not focused and slightly hidden in his campaign, compared to his opponent, Senator John Kerry in the 2004 Presidential Election. What can we do with the extra money that the government is hiding from our taxes? Can we shift the way our nation is heading with our money? I would do that. I would add money that is not used or needed towards healthcare.

"Benefits" is a word that everyone in the world is looking for (maybe not Bill Gates). The homeless and jobless have a hard time getting a place to live and money to keep it. Benefits could be provided for a given amount of time. There is however the difficulty of actually being hired for a job. Criminal records, public enemy, and many more are things that can prevent these people that require jobs to get them.

What happens now that they have NO job and their benefits are gone and recorded as not help-able? I would have special judges to decide. Did they really try or just relax in the given time? Their sentence as in back in the streets or longer benefits would be decided. Homeless and jobless aren't all I'm looking to improve as the president.

Healthcare is normally given to those with a bachelor's or higher degree. My healthcare benefits would do less spent on each person, but it would help the laborers more. The only way you can get my healthcare would be to work at one place for at least 2+ years. I would also tell you where your money is going. Your money and everyone else's in the country is paying for my job and basic survival. Why should I keep things from the whole country? I would also have the country vote for decisions (well, the major ones). With the results, I would then go to Congress and find the best result for the country.

Promises are promises, but like President George W. Bush, his promise was broken. His promise was to lower taxes and stuff to that effect. His promise was broken because of deficits and all the money was needed. I don't have a promise because I'm not 100% sure it can come true, but I will try the best of my abilities to make it happen!

J.A. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/09/08

In a world where cartoons are made, a group of people change the animation of the cartoons for the benefit of family friendliness. They lurk into the deepest depths of the channels in your television. They change the themes songs of the cartoons in order to not offend people. They even give the animated characters different voices from the original cartoons. Some people love them for their work; others just downright despise what they did to the original cartoons, but the one thing that everyone agreed on was what the group of people was called. The name that everyone gave to this group of people was 4kids!! Everyone on earth wants change whether it is cartoons, how they live, or even what they want to eat for dinner. One vital change that people in the United States do every four years is to decide who is going to the next president. Of course people don't go eeny-meany-miney-moe when they choose a candidate for president; they look for what the candidates will change when they become president. If I was one of those candidates, I would change the United States in order to make it a better place to live in. If I was to be President of the United States of America, I would change the education system, health care, and the sending of missionaries to other countries.

The changes I'd make for education system of the United States would be free college scholarships to high school students with a GPA of 3.5 to 4.0. This change is regardless to the income the students or the students' parents bring in. Whether the students are poor or rich they can be accepted into any college of their choice as long as their GPA is above 3.5. The benefit of this change to the United States is so that there will be more chances for high school students to go to the college of their choice in order to get a better education for the job of their dreams. This change will also

inspire high school students who don't so well on their tests because it'll be much easier for them to go into the college of their choice when the GPA isn't too hard to achieve.

Health care changes I'd make for the US if I was president would be to take care of the health of students that are in college, and the elimination of euthanasia, abortion, and stem cell research to enter the United States. Students who go to college work so hard on getting their degrees they might get an injury or an illness for no reason. The health care change would be beneficial for this occasion for the reason that the students need to work on their degrees rather than paying for their hospital bills. The benefit of the change in the elimination of euthanasia, abortion, and stem research is that there will be more people that will live in America and will be able to do things they can do without any doctors trying to kill them.

Sending missionaries to other countries is big thing for the people of the United States. What I would change to benefit the missionaries is the freedom for the missionaries to go into any country without any hassles, without any red tape, without any bureaucracy, and can stay for up to two years without Visa. Missionaries should focus more on preaching their religion to the people in other countries, and not focus on reading the many letters from the US embassy nagging them to come back to the United States immediately. The benefit for this change is that the missionaries can stay focused on their ministries more than the hassle of coming back to work.

If I was to be president, I would change the education system, health care, and the sending of missionaries to other countries. One vital change that people in the United States do every four years is to decide who is going to the next president. Of course most people don't go eeny-meany-miney-moe when they choose a candidate for president; they look for what the candidates will change when they become president. Always vote for the candidate with the same values that you have in order to not only satisfy yourself, but to also satisfy and change the entire country.

D.N. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/09/08

As president of the United States I would make many changes. I would make three important changes about the war, racism/gangs, and homelessness. Imagine...the war in Iraq is still going on. Families are torn apart because of the war, people being killed in the war, people having their lives ruined in the war, and family members missing other family members wondering if they will ever see each other and worrying. Imagine homeless people living on the street having no homes and no jobs. They want a life like everyone else with a job raising money, and a home. Gangs and clans hate each other because of skin color and nothing else. Now imagine me, D, as president. I will change all of that. I will change the war, racism, and homelessness.

My first change will be about the war. Too many families are being torn apart because of the war. On the news I hear about people dying in the war. They risk their lives for the war, while their family is at home (in the words of Jack Johnson) sitting, waiting, wishing. As president I would bring our troops home. I would bring all of them home and reunite them with their families. I will mourn with the families who lost a relative. The day the troops come home I would make a national holiday every year. If I can, I would name the day Iraqi Freedom Day. I would make a broadcast on television showing a list of the people who went and served in Iraq, and died in Iraq. I know many people that have relatives right now in Iraq. I know they miss them very much. Those people are missing their brothers, their cousins, their sisters, or even just friends. The people in Iraq are missing their families. I have a friend and her brothers in Iraq. She misses her brother a lot and her brother misses his family. He went AWOL just to see his family. They were reunited but then he had to go back. As president I will send our troops home so the soldiers don't have to go back.

Another change I would make would be towards racism. Even though I don't hear a lot about it going on right now, it still happens. People are killed because they have different colored skin. People join gangs and clans. People die from the gangs. Gang members get guns and knives to fight each other. Drive-bys kill people. Racism is a major

problem. Hate crimes occur against people just because they have different colored skin. They hate them not for their personality, not for something they did in the past, not for how they act, but just for their skin color. I think if you just get to know the person, you would know that they aren't entirely different from yourself. Skin color doesn't count for everything. I bet you can find out you have a lot in common with that person if you get to know them. I will try to prevent hate crimes and break up any gangs or clans. I will try to lessen the amount of deaths caused by gangs, or I will try to get rid of it entirely.

Third, I would solve homelessness. I would help the homeless people to get back on their feet and turn their life around. I would give them a job matching one of their skills, or I would give them an education. I would try to get rid of all homelessness or lessen the amount of homeless people. There are too many homeless people in this world. Homeless people are not so different from you and me. They all have dreams and they all have goals. I will help them accomplish some of those dreams and goals. I will help them raise money for themselves and give them a job so they can raise enough money for their own house. After I get rid of homelessness, it will be one less problem to worry about in the U.S.

As a president I will bring our troops home from the war in Iraq, I will reduce the number of gangs and racism episodes; this will help prevent the deaths caused by those gangs. I will give homeless people jobs or an education. I help our people achieve their dreams, because I know, "the hopes of the little girl who goes to a crumbling school in Dillon are the same as the dreams of the boys who learns on the streets of LA" (Barack Obama). "I will not judge people by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" (Martin Luther King Jr.). Those are the three most important changes I would make. I will also make a lot more. I would do this country many good as your president. This is our America, my America, your America, and we are one people and we are one Nation. It's all going to change.

D.Y. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/09/08

Today unemployment is not that high, but it is still millions of people jobless. I believe that unemployment all started with the Great Depression. The Great Depression started in 1929. Many people lost jobs, homes, etc. Now it is time to reduce joblessness from millions to thousands then thousands to hundreds then to no one. I believe this is a step to a new life and a new economy. I will change this by creating new jobs, limit insurance, and more affordable schools.

We can change the unemployment rate by new jobs. We can make new jobs in military, restaurants, schools, etc. Why let people go homeless or jobless? We can't let anyone go jobless (more of a dream than a reality) people are people. We should try everything we can to help Unemployment go from 5% to 4% to 3% to 2% to 1% and lastly 0%.

I think that insurance is a big problem. I will limit the money that you will get depending on if you have a family or not. I will also have a time limit on how long you will be paid by the government. Some people live off their insurance but it is time we have a time limit. So, you would have less than 6 months to find a job.

Last, I would like to build colleges for those who can't afford to go to college. Opening colleges like this can also open jobs for those who need jobs. Yes, taxes may go up, but not by much.

Unemployment in my eyes is a very bad thing. You might not be jobless but your neighbor might be, or our future generations. It is time for a change in the US today. Times have changed and so has life. Now it is time to reduce unemployment. We can change it by jobs and schools and so much more. This is a year for change. Let's do it!

L.G. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/09/08

Being President of the United States is a big responsibility. Many Americans would dub you as "The World's Most Powerful Man". Others would say "The World's Biggest Coward". It all depends on how you preside over the United States. If you are a weak leader, then you are not going to get the popularity for a good President. On the other hand, if you are strong and support America,

you may be as well known as Bill Gates. Before being elected President, you must campaign. Campaigning is when you or a candidate of an official spot travels around to speak rallies to vote for him/her. It can be tiring when campaigning for President of the United States. Former President Truman had traveled over 20,000 miles and campaigned around the clock for his reelection. Being President also has its responsibilities. If I were to become President, I would help with world peace, the unemployed, and improving technology and resources of this country.

World peace is possible to obtain. However, every country in the world has its similarities and differences. Sometimes, people take the differences too far. For instance, Iraq's former Prime Minister Saddam Hussein was a big loser. He builds up his army, and then invades oil-rich Kuwait. He terrorizes the citizens, and then burns most of their oil refineries, causing humongous blazing infernos. Only then does the United States recognize Iraq as a threat, and forces them to retreat to their country. The United States and the UN (United Nations) keep a Coalition force near Kuwait in case Iraq decides to attack again. President George H. W. Bush had fast response to Hussein's action. This makes the country feel safe and in good hands. As President, I would help end the Iraqi War, explain to the Iraqi insurgents why fighting over differences is not the best idea, and bring the UN to settle the differences.

Unemployment has not been very popular and common over these past years. Most people can find good jobs in fast food restaurants or pharmacies. However, sometimes a store has too much employees, and cannot hire another worker. One of the most dreadful events of unemployment was the Great Depression. People had started to lose their money because of inflation. Inflation is taxes soaring above their normal rate. A very abysmal event was during the Civil War. The Union placed a naval blockade so the Confederacy could not trade its cotton to England and other places. Thus, prices went up. A price of shoes from \$18 went to \$800 in a year. A pound of beef rose from \$.16 to \$.80. The Great Depression forced many banks to close, making people lose their accounts, and money. I

would help unemployment by providing sub-jobs (city workers) until they could find a better one.

Technology and resources of this country are the things that make it lively. Without them, we would become people who live in tepees, fire for our stoves, dirty puddles as baths, and undercooked/rotten/burnt meat for meals. If I could improve our technology, resources would come with it. I would hire scientists from around the world to improve our technology, save the ozone layer, and reduce the Greenhouse Effect. Our technology could become so powerful, we could be the first to do the impossible, such as a space hotel, live on Mars, or even find new life forms from other galaxies (This may happen in the next 100-1,000 years). Technology and resources (oil, electricity, and water) are vital to our country's health.

Being President is a very big responsibility. You need to know how to run a country, yet able to win the citizen's hearts in believing that you are a strong leader. It is not just about being famous, rich, and having a good life. It is about being a responsible person with a 24-hour and 7 days a week job. It is not as easy being President. If I were to become President, I would help World peace, the unemployed, and improving our technology and resources.

C.Y. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/09/08

Shopping is a major part of a girl's life. As cool as shopping sounds, the biggest factor of shopping is having that little card from Visa, American Express, or USAA in the palm of your hand. Yes, a credit card is very useful, but when you look at the facts and responsibility, you might have second thoughts. Credit cards are very useful when you don't have enough dollar bills to pay for things right away, but then you have to remind yourself that after you use the credit cards you have to pay that money back plus interest. If I became the President of the United States, I would lower interest rates on credit cards.

Today, the United States has one of the worst tax systems which affect the interest that citizens pay on items they purchase. I had to change the interest rates, I would lower the

percentage rates and make the system less complicated. By doing this people will actually still be able to have money while paying their bills as well as getting the things we need and things we want. In addition, businesses will probably receive more profits because of everyone being able to actually buy more products. When citizens buy more products the economy improves, businesses hire more employees and citizens spend more money on pleasure things like vacations. For example, my parents would probably take a vacation and charge it to a credit card when interest rates are low because when they pay back the credit card company they don't have to pay back as much as when interest rates are high.

When interest rates are lowered, citizens tend to spend more and create larger balances on their credit cards without thinking much about it. Credit card companies make less profit when interest rates are low and may use higher standards for issuing new credit cards. Low interest rates are great for shopping however; girls that like to go shopping can also get in trouble by maxing out their credit cards without thinking about how they're going to pay the credit card company back. For example, my friend Jennifer could create a big credit card bill for her mother without thinking.

Low rates can be a good thing or a bad thing depending on how citizens choose to use it. They can use it to make wise purchases at low interest rate or create huge debts.

B.H. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/10/08

If I became President of the United States, I would bring God back into school systems. I would want to bring God back into school systems because it is important to learn more about God. Our Four Fathers put God in everything, that's why we were such a strong nation before, and I want to put God in everything so people will have more faith. If I put God back in schools, people would learn more about Him, they would have more faith in Him. I would also make sure everyone would also get an education (which, truth be told, does sound quite odd coming from me.).

I think everyone should get an education so they can go to a good high school, then to a good college, then get themselves a good job to make some good money. I see those kids in Africa; they don't get an education when they want to learn. (That just seems stupid to me when I am frustrated with school, which is all the time, but when I truly think about it, we are actually very fortunate to be learning and getting an education.) (No matter how hard the work is or how scary the teachers are.) I also see people that are homeless, and my Dad tells me they are like that because they never went to school or their home was wrecked by some disaster. People shouldn't be like that because to me, it's really a living hell. No one should live like that.

My Mom also tells me that if I don't want to be in the military, I will have to go to college. I don't want to fight, so I will have to get a good education. Some of my friends aren't very good Christians, so my main goal, if I was the President, would be to bring God back into our education.

God gave us so much, so I think it is only fair if we give back to Him.

P.G. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/10/08

I would change three things in the U.S. if I became president. Ever since I heard about the thousands of people dying in wars and unequal opportunities because of racism I wanted to become president. The three reasons why I want to become president are lower and raise taxes, to bring the U.S troops home, and to help provide jobs for the homeless

First, I want to lower and raise taxes. I would want to lower the taxes for people who don't make enough money over the years, so they don't have to leave their families or live on the beach. I would also want to raise taxes for the rich people because they have higher chances of spending things.

Second, I want to bring U.S troops back home. I want to bring them home because there are too many people dying in the war over a third world country. They need to work it out themselves. I think we don't need to worry about the other countries.

Third, I'll provide jobs for the homeless. I want the homeless to have an opportunity to start over and set a new life for themselves. I would open up a company that is for people who need help and will provide an assistant to start their new career.

The Presidency is a lot of work, but if I were president, I would definitely raise and lower taxes, bring all U.S troops back home, and provide job for the homeless. If you are looking for a new life, I'm your guy.

A.B. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/10/08

What is change? The dictionary defines change as follows: To alter by putting one thing or giving up something for something else. Changes are ongoing constantly in our country. Changes to federal laws require acts of Congress.

If I was President of the United States, I would propose a change in the welfare system. People that are on welfare would be required to perform some type of public service. These services would include maintaining parks, up keeping national parks, monuments and museums; and assisting during any national emergency as needed.

Welfare recipients would be required to take some sort of job training to learn a new trade, or improve present skills. After completion of training, these people would be added to the national available work force. Welfare benefits would stop for any person who refused or did not complete training. The government would try to find jobs for all those that completed the training program. The period of time a person or family could remain on welfare would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

My plan would have many benefits. Welfare recipients would receive additional skills and would give them personal satisfaction by becoming part of the nation's work force. Reducing the number of people on welfare would allow the federal government to concentrate on other important social programs such as care for the aged and medical help for those with no health insurance.

A.H. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/10/08

Being the President of the United States is an extremely stressful job. No matter what you do, half the people in the country are against you. A lot of Americans are constantly complaining how awful the government is. Are you one of those Americans? What would you do to change the government? If I were the President of the United States I would make sure that taxpayers' money is actually making a difference in everyone's lives and improving the country.

In 1988 George H.W. Bush made a promise, "Read my lips. No new taxes." However, he couldn't stay true to his word. Eventually, it was obvious that the "philosophy" was not going to work. The country was in major debt from war and facing a recession. George H.W. Bush *had* to raise taxes. It would be unreasonable not to and it's sad that the country used this against him. Yes, he broke a promise. Yes, the country would have been doomed if he didn't. He became president before Desert Storm and before the massive debt. It would have been great if he could have seen the future, but the mind and politics doesn't roll like that. If I were elected president I would have to raise taxes. The country is in too much debt and the only way we can pay it off is if we make more than we spend.

One way the government is already controlling the unemployment rate is by giving the unemployed six months to show they are making an effort in improving their life. Why should they work when the government is taking perfectly good care of them? The people who don't care and would prefer to lounge around all day get cut off from benefits and are only supported by welfare, which is hardly enough to live off of. This is fine for people who only have to support themselves but I think families should have some sort of child care benefit or voucher. Welfare could barely pay for the basic needs of children and unemployment benefits aren't much to support an entire family. If I were president I wouldn't raise unemployment benefits for all people, just give vouchers and extra money to families.

To control the economy and make sure that United States citizens are getting jobs instead of illegal immigrants, American citizens age sixteen and older would have a National ID that would

prove United States citizenship. You would need to show the ID to apply for jobs, get into the country, or to gain any kind of services at all. However, the government can't really control whether the employers ask for an ID or if illegal immigrants make fake IDs. Another possible solution would be something a little more technological such as eye scanning. The government would still have the problem of employers not paying attention to the policy but this method eliminates any possible fraud or a fake identity and we already have the technology.

I am only able to write about three of the issues in detail in this short essay but some of my other ideas include electronic notice boards at the border of each state to send out missing children alerts, appointing conservative Supreme Court Justices, education vouchers for private schools, and my face on the three dollar bill (assuming I won't go down in infamy).

L.G. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/10/08

The role of the President of the United States of America would be a very heavy burden for me to bear because great as this country is, there are so many inequalities in American government and in its provisions for its citizens. I would focus on issues such as taxes, government spending, homelessness, food shortage, welfare procedures, and educational opportunities for the less advantaged. However, one particular concern that stands out above the rest is our country's poor health care system. As president, I would change and establish: stricter hygiene standards in hospitals, health supervising organizations, more government funding to support the U.S. health care system, and improvement of health care and nursing.

Personally, my family and I experienced the lack of recommended medical standards being enforced in a major Boston hospital, where my dad, or grandfather spent his last days. When he was about 30 years old, my grandfather was diagnosed with diabetes. It is a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin, a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy needed for daily life. We were fortunate

that my auntie is a hospice nurse and was educated in the United Kingdom, where medical standards and patient care are stricter and more advanced than in the United States. On their visits to the hospital, my auntie and grandmother noticed that blood stains were on the bed sheets and on the floor which meant that the bed sheets were not being changed on a daily basis and the floor was not mopped. This meant that bacteria lived in these dirty spots. My nurse auntie also noted that the tubes inserted into his body were not cleaned to the standards which they should have been to kill bacteria which could cause infection. We were all shocked that proper hygiene and cleanliness were not executed to government regulations in this worldwide, well-known hospital! After pointing these things out to my grandfather's nurse, followed by a talk with the nurse advisor, his nurses were more careful to use standard bacteria-killing methods to cut down the chance of infection.

This encounter shows how nurse's practices are not closely supervised. When nurses do not practice simple health procedures, viruses and germs can be spread easily throughout an unprotected hospital. During my term as President, I would make sure to have at least weekly, instead of monthly or yearly hospital inspections. Some health corporations like Mountain Pacific Quality Health (MPQH), called quality improvement organizations (QIOs) act like a "police" to the medical community serving the Medicare beneficiaries who are generally 65 years and older. I feel that our country needs more corporations such as MPQH to supervise quality of medical care for any patient in the hospital. I would also change, improve, and reinforce hygiene practices in hospitals. An alternative to just washing your hands is to have a front desk which will not admit any visitors who do not use the sanitizers supplied by the hospital. In addition, weekly room inspections should be made and followed through with penalties, if health standards are not met.

Since senior citizens take up a huge branch of health care in our country, I would help redistribute taxes for medical care of the senior citizens who are unable to get proper medical care. We are a wealthy country, but before we send

money to other countries, we need to make sure that our elderly are cared for in a decent way. However, I realize that some seniors are capable of paying for their own care in nice, nursing homes or senior community housing. So I would have committees study care for seniors and find ways to provide medical care and suitable living situations for those who have lower incomes, and especially insure that their care is as infection-free as possible. Another way to improve the quality of care in medical facilities is through the work of companies like Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). IHI is a non-profit organization which researches factors to improve health care throughout the world.

So as president, I would establish nursing standards, health supervising organizations, proper hygiene standards in hospitals, government funding to support U.S. quality of care in hospitals and provide better medical care for seniors in nursing homes or in their homes.

References: Diabetes - <http://www.diabetes.org/about-diabetes.jsp>

Institute for Healthcare Improvement - <http://www.ihl.org/IHI/Programs/Campaign/Campaign.htm?TabId=1>

R.S. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/10/08

The president of the United States of America is a very important position; it is the executive branch of government. Presidents influence legislation by the Congress of United States, and set priorities for government spending.

As a president, I would aim to reduce the deficit in government debt by cutting the waste in money. I would achieve this by streamlining government agencies, as too many departments within each agency duplicate and overlay duties. I would also cut back on welfare programs, and create more jobs.

If I were President of the United States of America, I would free funds to "feed the hungry in America." I would also create more jobs for the "under" and uneducated. The government would strive to create jobs compatible with their intellect, like cleaning parks, fix roads (highway maintenance).

Unlike welfare, it would not be a giveaway for free, but an honest work for a day's pay.

We are not a welfare-dependent country, and as president I would want people to be able to work for their money. People should not be dependent on the welfare system, where it hands out free monetary support.

A president should cut back federal jobs in selected departments (HUD, DOT, EPA, Commerce, Education, Energy, etc), and choke-hold unrestricted spending. As president, increasing job opportunities for the 'common', and reducing unneeded federal jobs limits the number of people dependent on welfare. If I were President of the United States of America, I would take these steps to make a smaller deficit.

K.C. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/10/08

If I were the president of the United States I would have some different opinions on the topics at hand. Like for instance education, health care, and cleaning up the environment. The main issue I would concentrate on at this point in time though is the war that is going on in Iraq.

Well I must say that Bush is not doing a great job on the war at this point in time, or at any point in time for that matter. I don't even really know what he is doing any more. The candidates aren't really inspiring that much either. I don't think we should bring back all the troops immediately before the war is even close to over. The terrorists could view this as a sign that we have given up and that they have won, therefore provoking them to attack us again and more often. I would wait until we can establish a firm government with the means to protect itself independently in that corner of the world before withdrawing all of our troops.

One of my secondary issues is education. Now it is important that we have a good education system that allows children and teens with little money to get through school and into college. Personally I think we deserve at least three days in the weekend, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday with half as much homework. Those two things would be my goals to achieve.

The second of the issues that need solving is the problem of health care. Hillary Clinton keeps on

promising universal health care but the truth of the matter is it will probably never happen, because if people pay less for health care the insurance company gets less money and so doctors don't make as much money. Who will want to be a doctor if they don't get as much money? I would work too on achieving a better health care system were every body would hopefully be able to afford but I don't know about universal.

An Important topic for debate is the one of our effects on the environment like global warming and pollution. Global Warming is a major problem we face today. I would make laws for recycling paper and waste. Also we need a better source of energy than gas and nuclear factories that cause pollution. Wind farms, geothermal energy, and solar power would become primary energy sources. Finally I would pass protection laws on forests.

If I were the leader of this country, I would say that I would try to change a lot of things. It wouldn't be that easy because these are some pretty big issues I am talking about. but I would focus on the war.

N.A. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 03/10/08