**Actuele lesbrief Engels – Getting Involved**

**Voor de docent**

De Amerikaanse verkiezingen staan nu echt voor de deur. Ook als jongeren nog niet stemgerechtigd zijn kunnen ze toch actief zijn en hun stem laten horen.

**ERK-niveau**

*Lezen B2 – Lezen om informatie op te doen: LEB2-3a Kan artikelen en verslagen over hedendaagse problemen begrijpen, waarin de schrijvers bepaalde stellingen of standpunten innemen. (LEB2-3a)*

Leesstrategieën – *Kan gebruikmaken van uiteenlopende strategieën om tot tekstbegrip te komen, waaronder het letten op hoofdpunten.* – *Kan van minder frequente woorden en uitdrukkingen de betekenis controleren door gebruik te maken van websites, (online) fora en eentalige woordenboeken.*

**Intro**

This month, the people of the United States will vote to elect their new president. Teens still too young to vote also want to make their voice heard. They are getting involved. When you get out there and do stuff, can you then really help to make a difference?

Assignment 1

Read the assignment and write down the answers in English. You may use English-language Internet sources to help you.

a Make a list of words connected to elections.

b The age at which a citizen of a country may cast their vote differs around the world.  
Look up the legal voting age for the following countries:   
Belarus, Brazil, Greece, Indonesia, Lebanon, Morocco, Netherlands, Turkey, United States

**Getting Involved**

This month, the people of the United States will vote to elect their new president. Many people want to make their voice heard, also teens who are still too young to vote. They are getting involved in other ways.

Find out what young people are doing to make a difference. Read about it [here](https://www.teenvogue.com/story/how-to-get-involved-election-if-under-18).

Assignment 2

Read the text. For each definition, find the word or expression it describes in the text and write it down.

1. to vote
2. a group of students who try to influence the decisions of a government or other authority
3. in a leading position, in a very important part or position
4. very important
5. the people who live and vote in an area
6. the right a person has based on the system of beliefs and laws of a country
7. imprisonment; the situation when someone is in prison
8. people who belong to the same age group as someone else
9. rules that were made to stop the spread of an illness (*ziekte*), telling people to stay away from other people as much as possible
10. hitting a door with the knuckles of your hand or with a hard object
11. an event where people are actually present
12. a group or club that is supporting specific issues
13. easiest
14. to be in a situation where you do not influence events at all
15. high-school students
16. a group or organization that tries to influence decisions concerning climate change

Assignment 3

a Choose the best summary.

1 For US citizens under 18 who can’t vote yet there are many ways to get involved politically.

2 In the United States, politicians spend most of their time and resources on policies for teens.

3 US teens under 18 generally don’t care about what’s going on in politics.

4 Young Americans can only make their voice heard once they can vote.

b Jalen Randall says that she is going to hold politicians accountable. What does she mean?

1 As a 16-year-old, Jalen is too young to vote; she thinks this is the fault of the politicians.

2 If politicians had followed all social distancing guidelines, Jalen could have made her voice heard.

3 Political candidates should stop ignoring high school students who are still too young to vote.

4 Politicians are responsible for what they decide and must be able to justify their actions.

c What is Mira Schwadron’s advice for teens who don’t want to just sit and wait until they can vote?

1 Be patient, the day will come when you can finally vote for your favorite candidate.

2 Find an organization that supports your views and ask them if you can join them.

3 Make calls and send letters to politicians you admire and tell them more about yourself.

4 There really are not many opportunities out there for teens to become politically active.

Assignment 4 (optional)

1 Read the rest of the article.

2 Write down the seven ways teenagers can get involved in the 2020 election.