

LISTENING Time

1. Listen to Doug talking about the right to vote, and fill in the gaps with the missing words.

What my vote will mean to me

There are milestones in life that everyone seems to remember. Reaching ^(a) _____ age is one of them. At 18, we are given a Constitutional right that involves us in something much bigger than ourselves. The right to vote makes us ^(b) _____ to society as a whole. Viewed this way,
5 reaching ^(c) _____ becomes much more than just a personal milestone: it becomes a responsibility. Our right to vote must always be respected and handled with ^(d) _____. When I turn 18, I will be given a right and ^(e) _____ that people in many countries do not have; but, with that right will come a new set of responsibilities. If I am to accept one, then I must also accept the other. My vote should mean that I have
10 exercised my ^(f) _____ to become an “educated consumer”. It should not mean that I have participated in a “popularity” contest, but rather that I have educated myself about the ^(g) _____ and how the candidates stand on them. It also means that I have looked into issues that may not affect me singularly, but may affect the general ^(h) _____. It should mean that I explore issues dealing with the future of my ⁽ⁱ⁾ _____, and maybe
15 the world - about the ^(j) _____, our economy, the military and foreign involvements. I will have to stay ^(k) _____ about new issues that may arise, and even small town issues that may affect where I ^(l) _____. It will be my responsibility to follow my local ^(m) _____. It will be my responsibility to safeguard the confidentiality of the voting booth and the right of the candidates to express their ⁽ⁿ⁾ _____. It will be my
20 responsibility to make up my own mind about the candidates and not be influenced by my family, friends, or others “endorsing” candidates. I must be educated in ^(o) _____ techniques and question media coverage of an ^(p) _____. And finally, after I have done this, I must always exercise, and be prepared to ^(q) _____ my right to vote.

“What my vote will mean to me”, <http://teenink.com> (adapted), accessed in November 2013

2. Answer the following questions.

- 2.1 How important is the right to vote?
- 2.2 Why do you become an “educated consumer” when you exercise your right to vote?
- 2.3 What must you do to become a conscious voter?
- 2.4 Have you reached voting age? What does it feel like to exercise the right to vote? If you haven’t yet, are you looking forward to it? Why/Why not?



DOCENTE



Soluções

1.
a. voting; b. responsible
c. 18; d. maturity; e. power;
f. duty; g. issues;
h. public; i. country
j. environment;
k. Informed; l. live
m. government; n. opinions
o. propaganda; p. election;
q. defend

2.1 Model answer: The right to vote is very important because we can help decide the future of our country, and this way our own future. Voting promotes democracy and allows us to have a say in who is going to run our country.

2.2 I become an “educated consumer”, because I will have analysed all the candidates’ programmes and their opinion on important issues, such as the environment, economy, military and foreign involvements... I become more aware of the problems my country (and the world in general) is facing, of the way politicians I am going to elect intend to help solve the problem and of my own contribution to finding a solution.

2.3 I must know the candidates and their opinions, I have to take my own decisions, and not be influenced by family, friends, or the media.

2.4 Personal answer.