

Student 4: High Achieved

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

My research aim is to find out how lowering the voting age would impact the voter turnout in New Zealand.

Research Questions Would lowering the voting age increase or decrease the percentage turnout of voters in NZ? What are the issues with people aged 16 & 17 being allowed to vote? What could political parties do to increase the voter turnout of young people?

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Source: <https://www.mm-research.com/Young+People's+Participation+in+the+Voting+Process>

Relevant Information: In 2008 19% of young people didn't register. Harvard research states that parents voting has a major impact. In the US 2004 election less than 50% of people aged 18-24 voted and 37% in the same age group for the 2005 UK election. In a 2007 study non-voters were put in three categories, disinterested, inconvenienced and principled. Main reasons for not voting are that people don't know what they are voting for or don't have the motivation/think their vote won't matter. The US election in 2008 had the largest turnout from youth since 18 year olds we allowed to vote in 1972.

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Perspectives: Wendy Dinsdale, a researcher at MMResearch, thinks that people aged 18-24 not voting is an issue and is glad that things are being done to increase voter turnout. "In summary, lack of youth participation in the voting process is an issue facing many democracies today." I believe that Wendy actually values the reasons why young people aren't voting and looks to see what can be done to increase voter turnout. As a researcher into this issue she an academic perspective but she also has a democratic perspective where she sees the need of everyone who legally can to get involved in the democratic process.

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Social Actions: In New Zealand voting enrollment forms were placed in shopping centres, fast food restaurants and liquor stores for convenience. Voting awareness campaigns held in universities. Using social media like Facebook to encourage young people. Adding shuttles going to and from voting polls to make it easier for people that are less motivated.

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Reflection and evaluation: Most of the statistics are from 10 years ago so we need back up information to make sure the trend in voter turnout is the same as then but if the stats are backed up then this page is extremely helpful because it shows that voter turnout among young people isn't just a problem in New Zealand. I think I need to collect evidence of New Zealand's statistics. This would make it more relevant to my research.

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Source: Green Party Hamilton West candidate Jo Wrigley

Relevant Information: What would youth in politics do to encourage younger voters to participate in the general election? Hopefully young people in politics will mean that other young people will have people they can identify with speaking their truth to power about the issues most relevant to them in language that resonates. Given I am not a youth I can only speculate.

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Perspectives: Wrigley is the candidate for the Green Party in Hamilton West. Wrigley believes that 16 year olds are able to conduct research to make an informed decision on who to vote for. "16 year olds are capable of critique, enquiry and research to inform their decisions at least at the same capacity as all other eligible voters." As a person who has worked with youth in the past Jo values the importance of getting them involved early on. Her perspective could be shaped by her being a member of the green party which believes in the youth vote.

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Social Actions: Using youth icons or communities to increase voter turnout among young people. The Greens are door knocking, phone calling, attending community events, utilising social media, podcasts, public meetings, cottage meetings, and any other kind of meeting to talk to people and encourage them to vote as well as encouraging people to talk to their friends and families about voting. The Greens would most likely introduce voting education as a compulsory part of the school curriculum.

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Reflection and evaluation: Wrigley is the Greens candidate for Hamilton West so she would have a good idea of what her political party wants to do if elected and what they would do to accompany a lower voting age. It would definitely be reliable and accurate as she represents her parties policies. I would have liked to ask her more questions tat were pertinent to my research but I was quite disorganized.

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Source: http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/opinion/90222644/lowering-the-voting-age-to-16-must-happen-soon	
Relevant Information: In the 2014 election 37% of enrolled 18-24 year olds didn't show up to vote. 38% of 25-29 year olds didn't vote either. Lowering the age to 16 will help young people to make a habit of voting by helping teens understand it by getting help from their school. Teens supposedly have the same views as their parents because they can't think for themselves as their brains haven't fully developed.	7
Perspectives: Jimmy Ellingham is a writer for stuff.co.nz. He believes that the voting age should be lowered to 16 and that people should stop discriminating against younger people because they have more at stake whereas people at the other end of the age spectrum can vote but it will have less of an effect on them. He values youth and thinks they have valid points of view. As a reporter he probably hears lots of points of view and has formulated his opinion based on his media perspective.	4
Social Actions: None in this article	5
Reflection and evaluation: The source is reliable because some of the statistics used are the same as those from other sources. The rest of it is their opinion so the article is very one-sided. This means that the article is good for perspectives but lacks the balance required for a good inquiry.	6 6

Source: http://archive.idea.int/df/99df/daniela-int2.html	
Relevant Information: How low voter participation is	
Perspectives: Because the whole website is about how low voter participation is then the author most likely believes that voter turnout is too low and things need to be done to involve the public more and make them more interested in what political parties policies are and how they will affect the general public which should get people out and vote for what they think is right.	3
Social Actions: Places for people to register put in places that young people visit often. Specifically targeting young people on the radio, tv, ads, pamphlets etc. Ability to register online or by text. Adding voting education to social studies. Using magazines and tv shows that are received by a large group of young people to educate them about voting. Using forms of art and culture to educate people on their responsibility to vote. Billboard advertising. Mock elections so first-time voters get used to the voting process. In Russia, The New Perspectives Foundation included fun and entertainment when educating people about voting. Kids voting USA wanted children to get used to democracy and the voting system before they reached voting age so that when they did they knew what was happening and understood the process.	2
Reliability & Usefulness: It isn't very reliable because there are no sources cited and no author listed so we can't see if the author is credible. Perhaps it would be a good idea to contact this website and see who the person is so we can see if the information is reliable. However, it is a useful website as it gives a list of social actions that could increase the voter turnout of young people and this helps with the inquiry immensely.	6

More templates of this calibre would be needed for High Achieved