



LET'S TALK ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The 2016 Presidential election is over and we now have a new President-elect, Donald Trump. The election campaign was characterized by strong emotions, controversy and a great deal of negativity, bigotry and hate-filled rhetoric. In the aftermath of the election, there have been reported incidents of violence, harassment and intimidation targeting certain groups of people. In addition, daily protests in objection to Trump's election have been taking place across the country.

This lesson provides an opportunity for students to reflect on their thoughts and feelings as well as those of their classmates, learn more about the campaign and election, consider the candidates' final speeches and express their thoughts in a letter they write to the President-elect.

See these additional ADL resources: *Current Events Classroom* "[Voting Rights Then and Now](#)," [Let's Talk Politics: Bias, Dialogue and Critical Thinking](#), [Talking with Young People after the Election: Tips and Advice for Teachers and Parents/Family Members](#), [9 Ways To Teach about the Election: A Social Justice Approach](#) and [Post-Election: What You Can Expect From ADL](#).

Grade Level: grades 6–12

Time: 45–60 minutes

Common Core Anchor Standards: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

Learning Objectives:

- Students will reflect on their own and their classmates' thoughts and feelings about the outcomes of the 2016 presidential election campaign.
- Students will learn more about the election outcome, the historic nature of the campaign and what has happened so far in the aftermath of the election.
- Students will consider each of the candidates' speeches after the election and draw meaning about the campaign and the presidency.
- Students will express their thoughts, fears and hopes about the next four years by writing a letter to the President-elect.

Compelling Question: The election is finally over—now what happens?

Material:

- *Post-it Notes*® (three per student)
- Index cards (one for each student)
- [Establishing Classroom Guidelines](#) (for teacher)
- Donald Trump Victory Speech [transcript](#) or video (2016, 15 mins., YouTube, www.youtube.com/watch?v=owuq_An4cnk)
- Hillary Clinton Concession Speech [transcript](#) or video (2016, 14 mins., YouTube, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv4hsmfgRuI)
- [Letter to the President-Elect Worksheet](#) (one for each student)

Vocabulary:

Review the following vocabulary words and make sure students know their meanings. (See ADL's "[Glossary of Education Terms](#).")

- accountable
- anti-Semitism
- concession
- demographic
- electoral college
- hate crime
- Islamophobia
- popular vote
- protest
- racism
- rebuilding
- unify
- vitriol

ESTABLISHING CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

Because there are likely going to be differences of opinion and strong feelings around the outcome of the 2016 presidential election, this would be a good time to review classroom guidelines or rules, if you have already created them. If not, take 15–20 minutes to establish classroom guidelines using the [Establishing Classroom Guidelines](#) resource. Make sure that at the minimum, the following guidelines are among the list and that each are explained and agreed upon:

- Respect others' feelings and points of view.
- Speak from your own personal experience and don't speak for others.
- Do not judge the feelings and thoughts of others.
- Respect confidentiality.
- Share "air time" so that you don't monopolize the discussion.
- Agree to disagree if you cannot find common ground.

As an additional resource, use ADL's [Establishing a Safe Learning Environment](#) for this process.

MY THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS

1. Distribute three *Post-it Notes*® to each student. Ask students: *When you heard the results of the presidential election, how did you feel?* Explain to students that they will be able to write up to three feelings, one on each *Post-it Note*. They don't have to write all three, but should write at least one. Call up students a few at a time to hang their *Post-it Notes* on a wall or the board.
2. Depending on your space, either have students walk up and visually read the wall of post-its and if space doesn't allow for that, you can read aloud all the words or ask one of the students to do so.
3. Engage students in a brief discussion by asking: *Was it easy or difficult to come up with feelings words? What do you notice about the feelings on the wall? Why do you think students have so many different feelings about the election?*
4. Distribute one index card to each student. Explain that on the index card, students should write on one side, one thought they have about the election (in a sentence or two) and on the other side, one question they have about the election (in a sentence or two). Remind students that they should say what they think but also be mindful to be respectful and not to insult anyone in the class.
5. Collect all the cards, mix them up, and redistribute the cards so that students get a different person's card. Then have each student read the card in their hand aloud, both sides (the thought and the question).
6. Have students turn and talk with the person sitting next to them, discussing what they heard by answering some or all of the following questions:
 - Were you surprised by anything you heard?
 - Did you hear a thought or question that you hadn't thought of before? Explain.
 - Did you notice any patterns in people's thoughts and questions?

VICTORY AND CONCESSION SPEECHES

1. Have students watch [Hillary Clinton's Concession Speech](#) and [Donald Trump's Victory Speech](#). You should decide the order—Clinton first or Trump first—depending on the mood in the room. Alternatively, you can have them read the transcript of each of the speeches: [Donald Trump's Victory Speech](#) and [Hillary Clinton's Concession Speech](#).
2. After watching (or reading) each of the speeches, engage students in a discussion by asking:
 - How do you think the candidate felt as they were giving the speech? How do you know?
 - What did Trump say? What did Clinton say?
 - What message was Clinton/Trump trying to convey in their speech?
 - How did you feel after listening to each speech?
 - In your opinion, what was the most important thing Clinton/Trump said?
 - What makes you hopeful? What makes you fearful?
3. After listening to or reading both speeches, ask:
 - How are the speeches similar and in what ways are they different?
 - What did you learn that you didn't know before?

INFORMATION SHARING

1. Ask students: *What do you know about the presidential election campaign? What do you know about each of the candidates? What do you know about the outcome of the election?* Record what students say on the board and have them take notes.
2. Share some or all of the following information in addition to other background you might like to share. Please note that all of the items described below can be further investigated in a larger unit or could be independent or group research projects for the class.
 - This election was historic in that Hillary Clinton was the first female candidate ever at the top of a major party ticket. There have been several women to run for President in the past including Victoria Woodhull (Equal Rights Party) in 1872, Margaret Chase Smith (Republican Party) in 1964 and Shirley Chisholm (Democratic Party), the first African American woman elected to Congress, ran in 1972.. Two women have been on major party tickets as Vice Presidential candidates: Geraldine Ferraro, Democrat, in 1984 and Sarah Palin, Republican, in 2008. A Pew Research report on [women and leadership](#) found that 38% of Americans believe one major reason there aren't more women elected to top political offices in the U.S. is because they are held to higher standards than men. A similar percentage (37%) stated that this country is "not ready to hire/elect women leaders."
 - Donald Trump won the 2016 Presidential election because he won the majority of Electoral College votes—he received 290 to Hillary Clinton's 220. The Electoral College, the methodology for electing Presidents, is a battle to win states and their accompanying electoral votes; the President is selected by electors instead of a direct vote of citizens. Whoever gets to 270 or more electoral votes—a majority of the 538 total—wins the election. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. The votes are still being tallied right now but it is estimated that Clinton will have won the popular vote by more than 2 million votes. About 57% of eligible voters cast ballots in the Presidential election, which is down from 58.6% in 2012 and 61.6% in 2008.
 - This is the first presidential election in fifty years without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act. As a result, there were 868 fewer places to vote in 2016.
 - Exit polling revealed important data about some of the demographic differences in how different groups of people voted. In terms of gender, 41% of men voted for Hillary Clinton and 53% voted for Trump while 54% of women voted for Clinton and 42% voted for Trump. A majority of white men (63%) and white women (52%) voted for Trump while African-American men (80%), African-American women (94%), Latino men (62%), Latino women (68%) and others (61%) voted overwhelmingly for Clinton.
 - In the days immediately following the election, there were reports across the country of hateful violence, intimidation and harassment on social media, at universities, in K-12 schools, on public transportation, while driving and in businesses. In the first three days after the election, there have been over 200 reported incidents against African-American people, LGBTQ people, Muslim people, immigrants and others. Anti-Black and anti-immigrant incidents were far and away the most reported with anti-Muslim being the third most common. This aftermath of the election is reminiscent of the campaign itself which was characterized by biased and hateful rhetoric including stereotyping, hate-filled language, name-calling as well as policy positions put forth that targeted specific groups of marginalized people (e.g. Muslims, immigrants, Latinos, disabled people, African-Americans, women, etc.).
 - Since the election, there have been daily acts of civil disobedience and protests across the country in many cities and in schools. Protesters are upset about Trump's policies, positions and bigoted

rhetoric and some are questioning the legitimacy of Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton. Most have been peaceful but some (Portland, OR) were marred by violence.

3. After sharing this information, engage students in a brief discussion by asking the following questions:
 - What did you learn that you didn't know before?
 - What surprises you?
 - Did you learn anything that changed your opinion or perspective and if so, how?

WRITING ACTIVITY

1. Explain that Presidents have a great deal of power to sign and veto legislation, assign cabinet positions, command the armed forces, nominate Supreme Court justices, engage in international relations, speak to the American people, etc. At the same time, in a democracy, it is also the people who have collective power in holding our government, elected officials and the President accountable for the decisions he or she makes.
2. Ask students: *How can citizens make a difference in keeping the government and the President accountable?* Some of the ways include: keep informed on issues, follow their voting patterns and legislation they promote, contact them to express your support or disagreement on a particular issue, write to local elected officials to ask them to stand up to bias and hate rhetoric, engage in local or national activism, vote, etc.
3. Explain to students that they are going to take one of those steps by writing a letter to the President-elect to express their thoughts, hopes, disagreements or fears for what he does in the days ahead and during his presidency. Distribute a copy of the [Letter to the President-Elect Worksheet](#) to each student and give them time to begin filling out the form and constructing their letter. In the letter, students should include the following:
 - What you saw, heard and felt during the campaign.
 - What you heard in the President-elect's acceptance speech that you appreciated and/or caused your concern.
 - What you are seeing in the aftermath of the election.
 - What tone you would like his presidency to take.
 - What issues you want him to address and what are your position about those issues (pick 3-4). Possible issues: hate crimes, health care, terrorism, climate change, racial profiling, Supreme Court appointments, jobs, taxes, refugees, immigration, fracking, gun control, voting rights, LGBTQ rights, criminal justice system, abortion, gender pay gap, etc.
4. If students do not complete their essays in class, assign it for homework.
5. Encourage your students to join the [#StudentsSpeak](#) campaign organized by Teaching Tolerance to collect and share their thoughts with each other and the President-elect.

CLOSING

Have students share their letters with the class by reading them aloud.

ADDITIONAL READING

- [“12 Women Who Ran for President Before Hillary”](#) (*The Huffington Post*, July 25, 2016)
- [“Behind Trump’s victory: Divisions by race, gender, education”](#) (Pew Research Center, November 9, 2016)
- [Election 2016: Exit Polls](#) (*The New York Times*, November 8, 2016)
- [Election 2016s: Exit Polls](#) (CNN, November 9, 2016)
- [Presidential Election Results](#) (*The New York Times*, November 12, 2016)
- [Over 200 Incidents of Hateful Harassment and Intimidation Since Election Day](#) (Southern Poverty Law Center, November 11, 2016)
- [“Schools report racially charged incidents after election”](#) (AP, November 11, 2016)
- [“There Are 868 Fewer Places to Vote in 2016 Because the Supreme Court Gutted the Voting Rights Act”](#) (*That Nation*, November 4, 2016)
- [“Trump will be the 4th president to win the Electoral College after getting fewer votes than his opponent”](#) (Vox, November 9, 2016)
- [“Voter Turnout Fell, Especially In States That Clinton Won”](#) (FiveThirtyEight, November 11, 2016)

COMMON CORE ANCHOR STANDARDS

Content Area/Standard
Reading
Standard 1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
Standard 7: Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
Writing
Standard 1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
Speaking and Listening
Standard 1: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on each others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
Standard 3: Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning and use of evidence and rhetoric.

ESTABLISHING CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

1. Write CLASSROOM GUIDELINES on the top of a piece of chart paper or on the board/smart board.
2. Ask students: *Why are classroom guidelines essential for creating a safe and respectful environment, for class discussions on difficult topics?* (For example, to have safe discussions, to encourage learning, to learn from mistakes, to minimize negative and unproductive conflicts, to hear different perspectives respectfully.)
3. Develop a web of student responses, and ask students to add additional words or ideas that come to mind when thinking about guidelines for respectful discussion.
4. Divide the class into small groups of 4–5 students and provide each group with a piece of chart paper and markers. Have each group select a recorder.
5. Explain to the class that each group is to develop 1–2 guidelines that they believe are important for each of the following three areas:
 - What does respectful discussion sound like?
 - What does it look like?
 - What does it feel like?

In addition to developing these classroom guidelines, students should be prepared to explain why they think each guideline is important.

6. On a piece of poster board, write GUIDELINES FOR RESPECT at the top.
7. After all groups have had time to develop two guidelines for each area, have a recorder from each group share the guidelines with the rest of the class. Discuss any guidelines that are unclear, clarify their meanings, and offer examples. Post each ground rule on the GUIDELINES FOR RESPECT poster board. If a group shares a ground rule that has already been established, put a check mark (√) by the guideline to acknowledge agreement.
8. Hold a class discussion using the following questions as a guide:
 - How can these guidelines be used to help make our classroom a safe and respectful place?
 - How can we ensure that all members of the class abide by the guidelines?
 - What happens if someone does not abide by the guidelines?
9. Ask for consensus on abiding by each of the guidelines.. Ask students to demonstrate their commitment to upholding the guidelines by signing their name or initials on the GUIDELINES FOR RESPECT poster board. Place the poster board (permanently) in a highly visible area of the classroom.
10. *(Optional)* Type up the class guidelines in the form of personal contracts and have each student sign their personal contract as a demonstration of their agreement to honor the guidelines.

DONALD TRUMP VICTORY SPEECH

TRANSCRIPT

Thank you. Thank you very much, everybody. Sorry to keep you waiting. Complicated business. Complicated. Thank you very much.

I've just received a call from Secretary Clinton. She congratulated us. It's about us. On our victory, and I congratulated her and her family on a very, very hard-fought campaign.

I mean, she fought very hard. Hillary has worked very long and very hard over a long period of time, and we owe her a major debt of gratitude for her service to our country.

I mean that very sincerely. Now it is time for America to bind the wounds of division, have to get together. To all Republicans and Democrats and independents across this nation, I say it is time for us to come together as one united people.

It is time. I pledge to every citizen of our land that I will be President for all of Americans, and this is so important to me. For those who have chosen not to support me in the past, of which there were a few people, I'm reaching out to you for your guidance and your help so that we can work together and unify our great country.

As I've said from the beginning, ours was not a campaign but rather an incredible and great movement, made up of millions of hard-working men and women who love their country and want a better, brighter future for themselves and for their family.

It is a movement comprised of Americans from all races, religions, backgrounds, and beliefs, who want and expect our government to serve the people—and serve the people it will.

Working together, we will begin the urgent task of rebuilding our nation and renewing the American dream. I've spent my entire life in business, looking at the untapped potential in projects and in people all over the world.

That is now what I want to do for our country. Tremendous potential. I've gotten to know our country so well. Tremendous potential. It is going to be a beautiful thing. Every single American will have the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential.

The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer.

We are going to fix our inner cities and rebuild our highways, bridges, tunnels, airports, schools, hospitals. We're going to rebuild our infrastructure, which will become, by the way, second to none. And we will put millions of our people to work as we rebuild it.

We will also finally take care of our great veterans who have been so loyal, and I've gotten to know so many over this 18-month journey. The time I've spent with them during this campaign has been among my greatest honors. Our veterans are incredible people.

We will embark upon a project of national growth and renewal. I will harness the creative talents of our people, and we will call upon the best and brightest to leverage their tremendous talent for the benefit of all. It is going to happen.

We have a great economic plan. We will double our growth and have the strongest economy anywhere in the world. At the same time, we will get along with all other nations willing to get along with us. We will be. We will have great relationships. We expect to have great, great relationships.

No dream is too big, no challenge is too great. Nothing we want for our future is beyond our reach.

America will no longer settle for anything less than the best. We must reclaim our country's destiny and dream big and bold and daring. We have to do that. We're going to dream of things for our country, and beautiful things and successful things once again.

I want to tell the world community that while we will always put America's interests first, we will deal fairly with everyone, with everyone. All people and all other nations.

We will seek common ground, not hostility; partnership, not conflict.

And now I would like to take this moment to thank some of the people who really helped me with this, what they are calling tonight a very, very historic victory.

First, I want to thank my parents, who I know are looking down on me right now. Great people. I've learned so much from them. They were wonderful in every regard. Truly great parents.

I also want to thank my sisters, Marianne and Elizabeth, who are here with us tonight. Where are they? They're here someplace. They're very shy, actually.

And my brother Robert, my great friend. Where is Robert? Where is Robert?

My brother Robert, and they should be on this stage, but that's okay. They're great.

And also my late brother Fred, great guy. Fantastic guy. Fantastic family. I was very lucky.

Great brothers, sisters, great, unbelievable parents.

To Melania and Don and Ivanka and Eric and Tiffany and Barron, I love you and I thank you, and especially for putting up with all of those hours. This was tough.

This was tough. This political stuff is nasty, and it is tough.

So I want to thank my family very much. Really fantastic. Thank you all. Thank you all. Lara, unbelievable job. Unbelievable. Vanessa, thank you. Thank you very much. What a great group.

You've all given me such incredible support, and I will tell you that we have a large group of people. You know, they kept saying we have a small staff. Not so small. Look at all of the people that we have. Look at all of these people.

And Kellyanne and Chris and Rudy and Steve and David. We have got tremendously talented people up here, and I want to tell you it's been very, very special.

I want to give a very special thanks to our former mayor, Rudy Giuliani. He's unbelievable. Unbelievable. He traveled with us and he went through meetings, and Rudy never changes. Where is Rudy. Where is he?

Gov. Chris Christie, folks, was unbelievable. Thank you, Chris. The first man, first senator, first major, major politician. Let me tell you, he is highly respected in Washington because he is as smart as you get.

Sen. Jeff Sessions. Where is Jeff? A great man. Another great man, very tough competitor. He was not easy. He was not easy. Who is that? Is that the mayor that showed up? Is that Rudy?

Up here. Really a friend to me, but I'll tell you, I got to know him as a competitor because he was one of the folks that was negotiating to go against those Democrats, Dr. Ben Carson. Where's Ben? Where is Ben? By the way, Mike Huckabee is here someplace, and he is fantastic. Mike and his family Sarah, thank you very much. Gen. Mike Flynn. Where is Mike? And Gen. Kellogg. We have over 200 generals and admirals that have endorsed our campaign and they are special people.

We have 22 Congressional Medal of Honor people. A very special person who, believe me, I read reports that I wasn't getting along with him. I never had a bad second with him. He's an unbelievable star. He is ... that's right, how did you possibly guess? Let me tell you about Reince. I've said Reince. I know it. I know it. Look at all of those people over there. I know it, Reince is a superstar. I said, they can't call you a superstar, Reince, unless we win it. Like Secretariat. He would not have that bust at the track at Belmont.

Reince is really a star and he is the hardest-working guy, and in a certain way I did this. Reince, come up here. Get over here, Reince.

Boy, oh, boy, oh, boy. It's about time you did this right. My god. Nah, come here. Say something.

Amazing guy. Our partnership with the RNC was so important to the success and what we've done, so I also have to say, I've gotten to know some incredible people.

The Secret Service people. They're tough and they're smart and they're sharp and I don't want to mess around with them, I can tell you. And when I want to go and wave to a big group of people and they rip me down and put me back down in the seat, but they are fantastic people so I want to thank the Secret Service.

And law enforcement in New York City, they're here tonight. These are spectacular people, sometimes underappreciated unfortunately. We appreciate them.

So it's been what they call a historic event, but to be really historic, we have to do a great job, and I promise you that I will not let you down. We will do a great job. We will do a great job. I look very much forward to being your president, and hopefully at the end of two years or three years or four years or maybe even eight years you will say so many of you worked so hard for us, with you. You will say that—you will say that that was something that you were—really were very proud to do and I can—thank you very much.

And I can only say that while the campaign is over, our work on this movement is now really just beginning. We're going to get to work immediately for the American people, and we're going to be doing a job that hopefully you will be so proud of your President. You will be so proud. Again, it's my honor.

It's an amazing evening. It's been an amazing two-year period, and I love this country. Thank you.

Thank you very much. Thank you to Mike Pence.

HILLARY CLINTON CONCESSION SPEECH

TRANSCRIPT

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much.

Very rowdy group. Thank you, my friends. Thank you. Thank you, thank you so very much for being here and I love you all, too.

Last night, I congratulated Donald Trump and offered to work with him on behalf of our country. I hope that he will be a successful president for all Americans. This is not the outcome we wanted or we worked so hard for and I'm sorry that we did not win this election for the values we share and the vision we hold for our country.

But I feel pride and gratitude for this wonderful campaign that we built together, this vast, diverse, creative, unruly, energized campaign. You represent the best of America and being your candidate has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

I know how disappointed you feel because I feel it too, and so do tens of millions of Americans who invested their hopes and dreams in this effort. This is painful and it will be for a long time, but I want you to remember this. Our campaign was never about one person or even one election. It was about the country we love and about building an America that's hopeful, inclusive and big-hearted.

We have seen that our nation is more deeply divided than we thought. But I still believe in America and I always will. And if you do, then we must accept this result and then look to the future. Donald Trump is going to be our president. We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead.

Our constitutional democracy enshrines the peaceful transfer of power and we don't just respect that – we cherish it. It also enshrines other things; the rule of law, the principle that we are all equal in rights and dignity, freedom of worship and expression. We respect and cherish these values too and we must defend them.

Now—and let me add, our constitutional democracy demands our participation, not just every four years but all the time. So let's do all we can to keep advancing the causes and values we all hold dear: making our economy work for everyone not just those at the top, protecting our country and protecting our planet and breaking down all the barriers that hold any American back from achieving their dreams.

We've spent a year and a half bringing together millions of people from every corner of our country to say with one voice that we believe that the American dream is big enough for everyone – for people of all races and religions, for men and women, for immigrants, for LGBT people, and people with disabilities. For everyone.

So now our responsibility as citizens is to keep doing our part to build that better, stronger, fairer America we seek. And I know you will.

I am so grateful to stand with all of you. I want to thank Tim Kaine and Anne Holton for being our partners on this journey.

It has been a joy getting to know them better, and it gives me great hope and comfort to know that Tim will remain on the frontlines of our democracy representing Virginia in the Senate.

To Barack and Michelle Obama, our country owes you an enormous debt of gratitude. We thank you for your graceful, determined leadership that has meant so much to so many Americans and people across the world.

And to Bill and Chelsea, Mark, Charlotte, Aidan, our brothers and our entire family, my love for you means more than I can ever express. You crisscrossed this country on our behalf and lifted me up when I needed it most—even four-month-old Aidan, who traveled with his mom.

I will always be grateful to the creative, talented, dedicated men and women at our headquarters in Brooklyn and across our country.

You poured your hearts into this campaign. For some of you who are veterans, it was a campaign after you had done other campaigns. Some of you, it was your first campaign. I want each of you to know that you were the best campaign anybody could have ever expected or wanted.

And to the millions of volunteers, community leaders, activists and union organizers who knocked on doors, talked to neighbors, posted on Facebook, even in secret, private Facebook sites ...

I want everybody coming out from behind that and make sure your voices are heard going forward.

To everyone who sent in contributions as small as \$5 and kept us going, thank you. Thank you from all of us.

And to the young people in particular, I hope you will hear this. I have, as Tim said, spent my entire adult life fighting for what I believe in. I've had successes and I've had setbacks. Sometimes really painful ones. Many of you are at the beginning of your professional public and political careers. You will have successes and setbacks, too.

This loss hurts, but please never stop believing that fighting for what's right is worth it.

It is—it is worth it.

And so we need—we need you to keep up these fights now and for the rest of your lives.

And to all the women, and especially the young women, who put their faith in this campaign and in me, I want you to know that nothing has made me prouder than to be your champion.

Now, I—I know—I know we have still not shattered that highest and hardest glass ceiling, but someday someone will and hopefully sooner than we might think right now.

And to all the little girls who are watching this, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams.

Finally ...

Finally, I am so grateful for our country and for all it has given to me. I count my blessings every single day that I am an American. And I still believe as deeply as I ever have that if we stand together and work together with respect for our differences, strength in our convictions and love for this nation, our best days are still ahead of us.

Because, you know—you know, I believe we are stronger together and we will go forward together. And you should never, ever regret fighting for that. You know, scripture tells us: “Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season, we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

So my friends, let us have faith in each other, let us not grow weary, let us not lose heart, for there are more seasons to come. And there is more work to do. I am incredibly honored and grateful to have had this chance to represent all of you in this consequential election.

May God bless you and may God bless the United States of America.

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT WORKSHEET

Opening Sentence
What I saw, heard and felt during the campaign
What I heard in the victory speech that I appreciated
What I heard in the victory speech that concerns me
What tone I would like the presidency to take
Something else I think is important to say
What issues I would like the President-elect to address (3-4)* 1. 2. 3. 4.

** Possible Issues: hate crimes, health care, terrorism, climate change, racial profiling, Supreme Court appointments, jobs, taxes, refugees, immigration, fracking, gun issues, voting rights, LGBTQ rights, criminal justice system, abortion, gender pay gap, etc.*