IDENTIFYING STEPS IN A PROCESS

Becoming a U.S. President

It takes a lot of effort over several years to become the president of the United States. Here’s a brief overview of the required steps. Read each step, then use reliable websites or other sources to answer the questions. Write your responses on a separate sheet of paper.

☐ 1. Meet the requirements. To run for president, a person must be at least 35 years old, be a natural-born U.S. citizen, and have lived in the U.S. for at least 14 years.

☐ 2. Announce your candidacy. Presidential hopefuls declare their candidacies in a variety of ways, including during speeches and in videos they post online.

☐ 3. Raise money. Candidates need to raise millions of dollars so they can promote themselves.

☐ 4. Get publicity. Presidential hopefuls must spread the word about who they are and where they stand on key issues. They get their messages out through campaign ads, social media, interviews, speeches, debates, and more.

☐ 5. Win the primaries and caucuses. Candidates need to win primaries and caucuses in several states to secure enough delegates’ votes to become their party’s official nominee.

☐ 6. Repeat steps 3 and 4. Once the Democratic and Republican candidates have been officially nominated, they need to spend a lot of time campaigning for the general election, especially in swing states.

☐ 7. Win the general election, then be inaugurated.

Questions

1. Explain how two 2016 presidential hopefuls announced their candidacies.

2. Pick two candidates and find out where some of their donations are coming from.

3. Several presidential contenders have been using Snapchat to gain attention from young people. Why might candidates want to attract young voters?

4. What role do delegates play in step 5 of the process above?

5. How can teens influence presidential elections even if they’re not old enough to vote?