

SAMPLE ANSWERS: Voter Turnout Trends

Directions: Based on the information presented, fill in the table with information and analysis regarding trends in voter turnout.

	Trend in Voter Turnout	Why This Trend Could Exist
Presidential vs. Midterm	More people are likely to turn out to vote in presidential elections compared to midterm elections. Roughly 50-60% turnout for presidential elections while roughly 35-45% turnout for midterm elections.	Answers may vary, but students may say that presidential elections are seen as more important so voters are more likely to participate.
Local Elections	Turnout varies depending on the city, but it seems that fewer voters participate in local elections when compared to presidential or midterm elections. Some cities are in the single digits when it comes to turnout.	Answers may vary, but students may say that local officials are not viewed as being as important as national elected officials. Some may say that voters don't realize the impact that local politicians have on their daily lives.
Education	Each group, regardless of education level, follows the trend of participating more in presidential elections and less in midterm elections. Groups with higher levels of education are more likely to turnout to vote than groups with lower levels of education. Those who went to college have turnout rates typically higher than 50% while those without a college education are typically lower than 50% turnout.	Answers may vary, but students may say that those with a higher level of education may feel more confident in their knowledge of the candidates and issues involved in the election.
Race & Ethnicity	Each group follows the trend of participating more in presidential elections and less in midterm elections. The Hispanic and "other" groups follow very similar trends, with turnout being around 30% in midterms and close to 50% in presidential elections. The white population usually has the highest turnout, going between 40-70%. The black population has been very close to the white population in turnout, and even surpassed them in 2008 and 2012.	Answers may vary, but students may say that black and white voter turnout may be so similar due to efforts from the 1960s and beyond to address voter inequalities.
Age	Each age group follows the trend of participating more in presidential elections and less in midterm elections. Older voters turnout more than younger voters. The 45+ voters usually have 50-70% turnout. The 30-44 voters are between 40-50% turnout. The 18-29 group is usually between 20-40% turnout.	Answers may vary, but students may say that older voters feel more confident in their knowledge of the candidates and issues in the election. Some students may say that younger voters may fail to see how the elections have a direct impact on their lives.