



# The Nation Student Writing Assignment

**FIRST DRAFT DUE:** MON, SEPT 12

**SECOND DRAFT DUE:** WED, SEPT 14

**FINAL DRAFT DUE:** FRI, SEPT 16

THIS OUTLINES THE ASSIGNMENT AND EVALUATION RUBRIC

The Nation's Student Writing Contest identifies, supports, and rewards many smart, progressive student journalists writing, reporting, and blogging today.

This year's question: *It's clear that the political system in the United States isn't working for many young people. What do you think is the central issue for your generation in Election 2016?*

Essays should not exceed 800 words and should demonstrate fresh, clear thinking and superior quality of expression and craftsmanship. **First draft 300-500 words.**

## Evaluation will be out of 10 points.

Each underlined criteria results in one point (either you effectively met the criteria or you did not). Grammar will be one point. Getting the assignment submitted on time is one point.

### What? (2 Points)

I named clearly what I think is the central issue. I defined the problem in exact terms and gave at least two examples to illustrate my point.

### Why? (2 Points)

I explained why this issue is important for US-American society or the global community. I explained why this issue is important to me.

### How? (4 Points)

I made a logical connection to Election 2016 (how this issue relates to this election cycle). I explained how this issue impacts society (if unaddressed). What does this issue result in? What does that outcome result in? What does that result? What does that result in?

### **Go three steps deep.**

**Example:** *police brutality takes human life life...which results in me not being able to trust those who are sworn to protect me...which results in some "acting tense around cops," which causes some to become suspicious...which results in police falsely assuming guilt and mishandling those they're addressing...which recreates the cycle of police violence and mistrust in the community.* ← This explanation and clarity is going "three steps deep."

**Use your standards of evaluation to help you embellish and go deeper.**  
**Printed, i.e. not hand-written, 12-point font, double-spaced**