

ANG-5104-1. WRITING SKILLS I

# POLITICS (LS)



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## Scenario

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“Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve.”

— Bernard Shaw



What do you think that quote means?

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Indeed, we often say that we get the government we deserve. Your power to vote has a tremendous impact on the laws and the decisions that will be made in your name.

The President of the United States of America (POTUS), Donald Trump to be more precise, has been making the headlines more often than he should. He has been criticized for many things on important issues such as racism, gun control, and sexual assaults. He has also been quite fierce when negotiating the USMCA, the new NAFTA.

***But what are the real impacts of USA's politics on Canada?***

In this learning situation, you will:

- ♣ Read, watch and write informative texts about America's political system
- ♣ Research on Canada's position on political issues
- ♣ React to some issues close to you



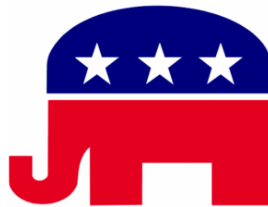
## Task 1 Democrats VS Republicans

Let's start by looking at the 2 parties represented in the USA election system.

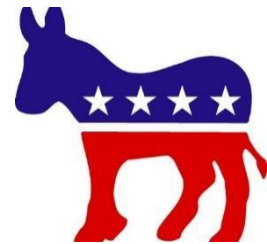
What are their points of view on major issues?

For task 1, you will:

- ♣ Watch the video using the QR code below
- ♣ Take notes using chart page 4
- ♣ Research Canada's position on political issues
- ♣ Write an article in which you will inform the reader, express your feelings regarding those issues and persuade the reader.



**Republicans' Elephant**



**Democrats' Donke**

### Glossary

<b>NAFTA:</b>	<b>North American Free Trade Agreement</b>
<b>USMCA:</b>	<b>United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement</b>
<b>POTUS:</b>	<b>President of the United States</b>

	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>
<b>Ideals</b>		
<b>Economy</b>		
<b>Health Care</b>		
<b>Military</b>		
<b>Gun Control</b>		
<b>Marriage</b>		
<b>Abortion</b>		
<b>Immigration</b>		

## Task 2 Canada's Positions

Canada and USA are close neighbours, but we can have quite different points of view. Let's take those same issues from the chart on page 3 and see what is Canada's take on them.

Here are a few links to help you in your research. Some of those positions you probably already know. Fill in the following chart.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian\\_values](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_values)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics\\_of\\_Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Canada)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html>

<https://www.macleans.ca/opinion/whats-happening-to-canadas-defence-spending/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun\\_laws\\_in\\_Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_laws_in_Canada)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abortion\\_in\\_Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abortion_in_Canada)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage\\_in\\_Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage_in_Canada)

	Canada's positions
<b>Ideals</b>	
<b>Economy</b>	
<b>Health Care</b>	
<b>Military</b>	
<b>Gun Control</b>	
<b>Marriage</b>	
<b>Abortion</b>	
<b>Immigration</b>	

Now that you have wrapped your head around the views of the two countries, write a blog that will:

- ♣ **explain** the similarities and the differences between Canada and America;
- ♣ **express** your opinions on 1-2 issues among those mentioned in the charts;
- ♣ **persuade** the reader that Canada is or is not a great country to live in.

Your blog will:

- ♣ contain between 200-250 words
- ♣ use the appropriate verb tenses
- ♣ respect the use of punctuation
- ♣ use appropriate and precise related vocabulary.

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## Task 3 The New NAFTA

In September 2018, President Donald Trump announced that he was not satisfied with Canada's presence within the NAFTA.

This came with major consequences for Canada and Mexico.



For task 3, you will write an article in which you will present the impact of the new NAFTA on Canada and express how you feel about it.



## What is USMCA and how does it affect Canada?

Before you write the article, it is important to get all the facts.

- ♣ Watch the video “NAFTA explained in 3 minutes”;
- ♣ Read the Global News article “NAFTA: deal reached” from pages 11 to 12;
- ♣ Use the chart on page 13 to write down all the appropriate information;
- ♣ You can use any other resource you want to help you understand the subject before you give your opinion.

### Nafta Explained in 3 Minutes



CANADA

September 30, 2018 9:13 pm

Updated: October 1, 2018 7:12 pm

## NAFTA deal reached: Canada, U.S., Mexico reach trade agreement under new name



By Katie Dangerfield

National Online Journalist, Breaking News Global News

Comments 145 Facebook 17.6k Twitter Email Print ...



**WATCH:** U.S. President Donald Trump thanked Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and incoming Mexican president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador for their work on a new trade deal.

—With files from Reuters and Eric Stober

After more than a year of negotiating a new [North American Free Trade Agreement](#)(NAFTA), Canada, the U.S. and Mexico have finally inked a trade deal.

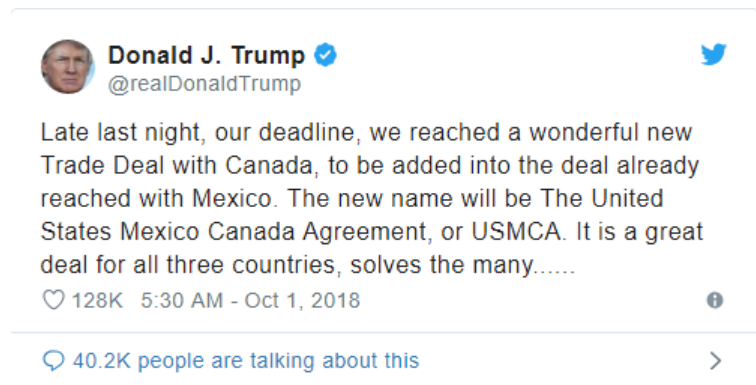
Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland and United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer released a joint statement Sunday

night announcing the new deal, which will be called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

“Today, Canada and the United States reached an agreement, alongside Mexico, on a new, modernized trade agreement for the 21st Century: the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA),” the statement read.

“USMCA will give our workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses a high-standard trade agreement that will result in freer markets, fairer trade and robust economic growth in our region.”

U.S. President Donald Trump is to sign the \$1.2-trillion trade agreement at the end of November and will then submit it to Congress, an official said.



The deal came down to the wire before a midnight deadline Sunday set by U.S. Congress, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau convening a cabinet meeting at 10 p.m. Sunday in Ottawa.

“It’s a good day for Canada,” Trudeau told reporters after the cabinet meeting to discuss the deal, which triggered a jump in global financial markets.

The NAFTA negotiations have been in the works since Aug. 16, 2017. The goal was to “modernize” the trade pact, with U.S., Mexican and Canadian. Officials initially expected to conclude negotiations in early 2018 due to elections later in the year.

### **What’s in the new agreement?**

Senior White House officials said the deal is a big win for Mexico and Canada, and the deal includes ambitious new market access, including increased U.S. access to the dairy market in Canada. The officials said

that a new regime has been agreed upon that will prevent supply management from being externalized outside of Canada.

Canada has agreed to provide U.S. dairy farmers access to about 3.5% of its approximately \$16-billion annual domestic dairy market. Although Canadian sources said its government was prepared to offer compensation, dairy farmers reacted angrily.

The Dairy Farmers of Canada said the new trade agreement will grant greater market access to the domestic dairy market and eliminate competitive dairy classes, which the group said will shrink the Canadian industry.

The lobby group said the measures will have “a dramatic impact not only for dairy farmers but for the whole sector,” adding that it fails “to see how this deal can be good for the 220 000 Canadian families that depend on dairy for their livelihood.”

Chapter 19, the dispute resolution mechanism, which was a major sticking point in the negotiations, will be kept with no substantial changes.

The deal also requires a higher proportion of the parts in a car to be made in areas of North America paying workers at least \$16 an hour, a rule aimed at shifting jobs from Mexico.

Canada and Mexico each agreed to a quota of 2.6 million passenger vehicles exported to the United States in the event that Trump imposes 25 % global autos tariffs on national security grounds.

The quota would allow for significant growth in tariff-free automotive exports from Canada above current production levels of about two million units, safeguarding Canadian plants. It is also well above the 1.8 million cars and SUVs Mexico sent north last year.

But the deal failed to resolve U.S. tariffs on Canada’s steel and aluminum exports.

A review of the deal will come up every six years, officials said.

Source: <https://globalnews.ca/news/4500068/nafta-2018-agreement-finalized/>

<b>What was NAFTA? Explain in your own words.</b>	
<b>When was it created?</b>	
<b>Which Canadian Prime Minister signed it?</b>  <b>Who was POTUS at the time?</b>	
<b>Why does Trump want his country to get out of it?</b>	
<b>What are some important changes for Canada in the USMCA?</b>	
<b>Other notes (additional information, reactions, etc.)</b>	

## Task 4 Your Thoughts

**It's now time to write down your thoughts, your views on the matter!**

In order to do so, you will:

- ♣ Briefly explain USMCA using your own words
- ♣ Express how you feel about the new deal
- ♣ Explain the USMCA impacts on Canada
- ♣ Persuade the reader whether NAFTA was a good thing or not for Canada and write something about USMCA.

Your article will:

- ♣ contain between 200-250 words
- ♣ use the appropriate verb tenses
- ♣ respect the use of punctuation
- ♣ use appropriate and precise related-vocabulary.

Make sure you answer all these questions before you hand in your article to your teacher.

- ♣ How do you feel about the USMCA deal?
- ♣ Do you think it is a good thing for Canada? What impacts will it have on your country?
- ♣ What do you think about the POTUS way to handle the negotiation?

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