



Five College Center for the Study of World Languages

Conversation Preparation Guides

Title: Discussing Politics

Topic: Complex Topics

Level: Intermediate-Advanced

Practice on Your Own

- Practice asking and answering questions about political matters.
 - Who is the French president?
 - Does Canada have a president?
 - What is China's political system?
 - Does Germany have a parliament?
 - Are there elections in Saudi Arabia?
 - Who is the British prime minister?
 - What is Japan's capital city? Who is its president? Does it have a president?
 - How many representatives does the U.S. Congress have? What about the Senate? Where does the U.S. president live?
- Create a dialogue about the political system of a country where the language is spoken.
 - *You:* What is X country's political system?
 - *Your Friend:* It is democratic.
 - *You:* Who is the most powerful person in the country?
 - *Your Friend:* The president is the most powerful person.
 - *You:* How is the president elected?
 - *Your Friend:* Every five years people vote in a presidential election. You need to be 18 years old or older to be able to vote...
- Practice talking about what people think about politics in the U.S. and the country/ies where the language is spoken. For instance:
 - People are not happy with politicians. They think that they are corrupt, that there is no justice and politicians can do anything...

Practice in Conversation Session

- Have a dialogue with your conversation partner about the U.S. political system.
- Now discuss the political system in the country/ies where the language is spoken.
- Discuss public opinion about the political matters in that country. What are the main issues people are concerned about? Compare it with the United States.
- Compare what you consider to be a good political system with one that you consider to be bad. What are the characteristics of the good one compared with the bad one?