Voter Apathy

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Reasons of the absenteeism - 2nd round of the French presidential election 2017

- refusal choosing — 31%
- no agreement with their ideas — 28%
- useless : Macron'll win — 16%
- not free — 15%
- not interested by politics — 10%

Main reasons

- Disinterested in politics
- Disgusted by politicians behaviour
- To much information and ways of getting information

Problem: High Abstention Rate

How to change people to be interested in politics?

How to change politics to interest people?

FOCUS ON

CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM :

How to convice children to be more interested in politics and to develop a critical mind?

STUDENT POLITICIANS:

How politicians' classes are formed and what are the main schools for them?

IDEAS

Situation in France

Politics classes present in high school syllabus BUT hours often replaced by other subjects. **MAIN REASON : NO EXAM**

France: politics and social education classes organized as monologues : **professors EXPLAIN, students LISTEN**

Possible Solution

Germany: Politics classes not mandatory. Students have to **pass EXAM** to validate.

Specialized professors give classes. Topics : German, European and International relations and politics in 21st century. Course structure: **speech analysis, discussions and presentations.**

Adaptation to France

Introduction of a **FINAL EXAM** and change in teaching method : **more DEBATES, more STAGES, more CONFERENCES**
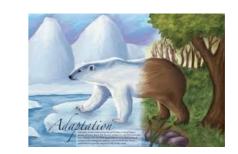
Situation in France

French politicians have **SIMILAR BACKGROUNDS**

Possible Solution

It **DOES NOT MATTER what you studied** for becoming politician. Three examples : Angela Merkel, Martin Schulz, Justin Trudeau

Adaptation to France

Impossible to FORCE people with different backgrounds to join politics, **impossible to LIMIT** the number of politicians coming from a certain school. **SOLUTION: OPENFORUM WEB PLATFORM** to easily communicate ideas. Put different backgrounds at the service of community. **CAREERS NOT LOST**

Situation in France

France: citizens >18 VOTE.

Possible Solution

Student Parallel Election Program to BUILD skills and habits of citizenship among young Canadians. Students' knowledge and interest in politics INCREASED.

Adaptation to France

Student vote in middle school and high school. Part of politics classes

CONCLUSIONS

High abstention rate:

- *Need to remotivate citizens, begin early : from school (more courses)*
- *Form citizens aware of their rights and duties (with a critical mind)*
- *Involve people in public decisions*

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