

The Lack of Interest by Younger Generations Toward Politics in Japan

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Initial Motive

In 2016, the Public Offices Election Act was enforced in Japan. Although, the voting age was lowered from 20 to 18, the voter turnout for Japanese younger generations was the lowest of all ages. Whereas American teenagers are eager to express their opinions about political issues, we implemented “One News Everyday Campaign” and the Mock Election.



http://www.soumu.go.jp/senkyo/senkyo_s/news/sonota/nendaibetu/



Methods



1. One News Everyday Campaign
In this campaign, we presented the summarized news articles to the classmates to get them familiarized with recent events occurred in our society. In addition, we showed them the video clips related to the summarized news.

2. Mock Election
With the help of Vote at Chuo, a student organization at Chuo University that encourages young generations to vote, we conducted a mock election to provide high school students with better understandings of voting system. To begin with, 20 participants listened to the political speeches given by three mock candidates. After discussing their manifestos, the participants voted for one of them.



Speech



Vote



Discussion



Interviews



We interviewed our classmate who is currently studying in Sweden in order to compare different types of voting systems.

We interviewed Mr. Daisuke Hayashi, an associate professor at Toyo University. In his interview, the importance of starting the sovereign education at early stages of one's life because it is never early to start engaging in politics.

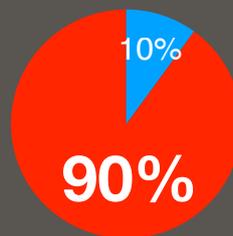


When we interviewed Mr. Yuki Murohashi, the head of Japan Youth Conference, he told us that it is also important to keep the connections with the real candidates and policies.

Results

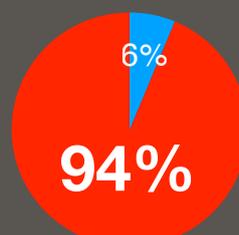
After conducting the methods, we asked the participants whether or not they found it effective in order to understand the politics

One News Everyday



90% of participants answered that the method was effective, despite the fact some of them pointed out that watching the short video clips of the daily news was not very effective since they found it difficult to understand the outline of the them.

Mock Election



94% of the students answered that the election was an effective way to understand the political systems. However, the manifestos that we discussed were not related to the real candidate's policies. Therefore, further investigation is needed in the future.

● Effective ● Ineffective