Philosophies of the Resolution

By Aaron Clendenen

Resolved: In democratic elections, the public’s right to know ought to be valued above a candidate’s right to privacy.

## Affirmative Applications:

1. Watergate:

No list of applications as to why we cannot trust politicians would be complete without Watergate. The Nixon Presidency had no greater scandal; or, rather, scandals. Watergate was not actually a single scandal, but two that surfaced at the same time. In the first scandal, President Nixon hired 5 people to break into the democratic headquarters. In the second scandal, President Nixon framed two reporters for spreading misinformation. This application will be useful for any case that is running that politicians cannot be trusted. Good places to do research on Watergate is Encyclopedia Britannica’s article (<https://www.britannica.com/event/Watergate-Scandal>), along with the scandal’s dedicated website (<https://watergate.info/>).

1. Van Buran:

This one may surprise anyone who has not studied American history in depth. Vice President Van Buran was responsible for some of the greatest political turmoil of all of history. Van Buran reinstated the spoils system; anyone who was elected could decide who was in the cabinet, congress, supreme court, or etc. Every time a politician was elected, the entire government below them would have a sudden staff overhaul. This application will be important because very few people have heard of the spoils system in my experience. In other words, a politician has private information that is detrimental to the government and the public. Thoughtco has an interesting article on the spoils system (<https://www.thoughtco.com/the-spoils-system-1773347>), and preside story, a website that provides an overview of politicians and their reigns of terror, wrote a rather depressing article about van burin. (<https://presidenstory.com/bios.php?pres=8#:~:text=a%20shrewd%20manipulator.-,His%20Presidency%20was%20a%20failure.,called%20%22Martin%20Van%20Ruin%22.>)

1. The American Political System:

The American Political System is a perfect example of why this resolution even exists. Scandal after scandal, political failure after political failure, America has had it all. Although its hard to give specific direction for research, it is important to note that America is not, by any stretch of the imagination, what it once was. Some politicians are better than others, but the general agreement from the American people is that our politicians cannot be trusted. The reasons and explanations for this very depending on any individual’s historical interpretation, but within the scope of the resolution it does not really matter. All the American Political System shows is that we cannot trust the politicians to give us their private information of their own will.

## Negative Applications:

1. Zero Day:

The Stuxnet Virus, released during Operation Olympic Games (Or Zero Day as some have come to call it), was an American secret until relatively recently. America and Israel released the virus to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons. It was a covert operation that needed the element of surprise in order to succeed. Had Stuxnet been released to the public, we may live in an entirely different world than we do now. Wired has a good article on Stuxnet, (<https://www.wired.com/2014/11/countdown-to-zero-day-stuxnet/>), and MacAfee, a computer security software, discusses Stuxnet on their website (<https://www.mcafee.com/enterprise/en-us/security-awareness/ransomware/what-is-stuxnet.html>).

1. George Washington:

George Washington is an outstanding example of what politicians should be. Although modern politicians are seen as evil, conniving and sniveling power hungry people, few have criticism for George Washington. Mount Vernon (A website dedicated to George Washington) has good information to pull from (<https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/biography/?gclid=CjwKCAjwi_b3BRAGEiwAemPNU7dVRG3lG7xzernWbgA2CeWUCSoVsotpLd1QGIogHeHrYVrHPy9tCRoCFHEQAvD_BwE>), and Historynet.com has some more general information (<https://www.historynet.com/george-washington>)

1. Abraham Lincoln:

Abraham Lincoln is another hallmark of American ideals. A politician of Washington’s own heart, Lincoln is responsible for some of the greatest political victories of all history. History.net (<https://www.historynet.com/abraham-lincoln#:~:text=Abraham%20Lincoln%20Summary,War%20to%20preserve%20the%20nation.&text=He%20also%20holds%20the%20distinction,for%20lifting%20riverboats%20off%20sandbars.>) and biography.com (<https://www.biography.com/us-president/abraham-lincoln>) have good information of the president.

At first glance, some of these examples may not seem like applications, but it is important to note that an application is defined by role. Its role is to illustrate your point, which all of these do. Although specific applications will vary, these are the applications it will be most important to note in my opinion.