

ANYBODY CAN BE PRESIDENT ... WELL, ALMOST ANYBODY

Article II, Section 1, Clause 5, of the United States Constitution states: No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

Amendment XXII (1951) provides: No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once.

Why do you think we passed the 22nd Amendment? Can you name the president who was elected to four terms of office?

Anyone can try to become president of the United States as long as they meet three basic requirements. These requirements are set out in the U.S. Constitution.

The three actual criteria presidential candidates must meet:

1. The person must have been a natural born citizen.

- What does "natural born citizen" mean?
- Do you meet this requirement?
- Does you know someone who would not meet this requirement and therefore could not be president? (Perhaps your parents, grandparents or great-grandparents were born in another country, or you know a foreign exchange student or celebrities from a foreign countries such as Arnold Schwarzenegger or Prince William of England.)

2. The person must be at least 35 years of age.

- Do your parents/guardians meet this requirement?
- Why is this a requirement for the presidency?
- Should there be a maximum limit as to how old a president can be? Why or why not?

3. The person must have lived in the United States for 14 years.

- Do you meet this requirement?
- Do your parents meet this requirement?
- Why would this be a requirement before someone can become president?

The three requirements set out in the Constitution are only minimum requirements. People would not vote for someone if those were his or her only qualifications for the presidency. What other factors, which are not technically requirements, are important for presidential candidates?

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| a) Should they know how to speak a foreign language? | g) Should they have served in the military? |
| b) Should they have governmental experience? | h) Should they be married? |
| c) Should they be lawyers? | i) Should they be physically fit? |
| d) Should they go to church? | j) Should they be a good public speaker? |
| e) Should they need to take an IQ test to prove they are smart? | k) Should they be rich? |
| f) Should they have a college degree? | l) Should they be under a certain age? |
| | m) Should they know how to drive? |

On the BACK of this paper, explain one additional requirement for the presidency. It can be from the list above, but does not have to be. Please explain it in one well-written paragraph.