

Media, Public Opinion, and Campaigns

Essays Topics

Instructions: Write a 2000 word essay on any one of the topics listed below. The topics are listed as questions that are designed to provoke a thoughtful discussion of the claim which must be supported by references to existing academic research and empirical evidence. You should also be sure to address the underlining implications for the democratic process. You can rely on assigned and recommended readings listed on the course syllabus but outside reading is strongly recommended. Be sure to use a proper citation method such as the Harvard system. See the essay writing guide on the course website (www.jkarp.com/s2010) for further details. The essay is due 18 March, 2010 at 4pm.

1. Do campaigns have an influence on electoral outcomes?
2. Can voters participate meaningfully in elections?
3. Some have suggested that the media can mobilise voters while others blame the media for voter apathy. Which argument is more persuasive?
4. Can money buy votes? If so, how? If not, why not?
5. Do political parties still play an important role in elections?