



## Aska – Caught up in US Election Fever!

*by Paula Heymann (November 2016)*



Every four years, an election for the presidency of the United States occurs on Election Day, held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The 2016 Presidential election was being held on November 8, 2016, with nominee Hillary Clinton for the Democratic Party and Donald Trump for the Republican Party.

Since our English Teacher Mr. Klaudius is very dedicated to always keeping his class busy, he arranged a cooperation with an American class from the state of Massachusetts, to work together on predicting who is going to win this year's election in Massachusetts, based on the fields of science and technology, which is also this semester's main topic, and another field of our choice.

Our class was divided up into several groups of our choice and each group started to work on finding arguments, evidence, statements the candidates Clinton and Trump expressed, to conclude the most probable prediction of who is going to win this year. We got time in class to work on this task, we got time at home to work on this task, we even got time to work together with our American friends to work on this task. It took us several weeks to finish up this exciting project, and as the final result our class was able to make a prediction of who is going to win the 11 electoral votes for the state of Massachusetts.

Every group decided on their own, how they are going to convey their prediction and to present their hard work to our class. My group, for instance, decided on creating an infographic. We weighed up the chances for Trump or Clinton to win the election in Massachusetts based on, as already mentioned, the field of science and technology and our group's topic of choice, climate change. Therefore we did research on both subjects and compared our findings to the position each candidate advocated. Through that, we came to the conclusion that Hillary Clinton is going to win the election in the state of Massachusetts (which she has!!).

However, that of course was not enough for our teacher Mr. Klaudius. No. He wanted more and asked students to go to a convention, where schools from all over Germany presented their predictions at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Berlin. There, they compared their predictions, which were commented by the US ambassador John B. Emerson, and also presented their projects to them and the other schools. In the end, the best projects were selected and awarded.



All in all, I can say that I have learned a lot from this experience and can certainly claim to know much more about the US election process now. I am very grateful to have had this opportunity and hopefully, projects like this will be arranged and elaborated for many more years. So therefore, until the next election!

Paula Heymann