

Brief Essay Assignment: Political Science 210

Fall, 2005
Professor Paul Gronke

Handed out: August 29, 2005
Due back in class: September 7, 2005

Was it rational to vote for Ralph Nader in 2000? Party officials, candidates, even Ralph Nader himself argued over this point in the 2000 election. Some claimed that Nader was simply a “spoiler” who only took votes away from Al Gore. Others argued that there were very good reason to vote for Nader, even if a vote might hurt the chances of one or the other major candidates. Nader himself argued that he had a real chance of winning.

What might be the reasons that a Nader voter might have given to explain their vote?
Why might a Gore or Bush voter who preferred Nader actually vote for someone else?

Provide a **one page account** of why it **would be rational** to vote for Ralph Nader in 2000. In your paper, make sure you describe the **account of rationality** that underlies your account of the Nader vote.

Your paper must be no longer than **one page in length** including any graphics, figures, references, etc. You can use a font size as small as 10 point but no smaller, and a margin no smaller than ½ inch on the left and right and 1 inch on the top and bottom.