


*The West Wing:*  
The office of the President

1. In your opinion, who are the greatest presidents in history? Why? What makes these men stand out?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. If you were President of the United States, what is the first action (or actions) you would take? 
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why do you think Bill Clinton said he felt "more idealistic when he left the White House than when he arrived"? In other words, why does the White House inspire greatness in those who inhabit it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Jimmy Carter discusses the fact that the president must always do what's right, even if it's not popular. Specifically, he talks about his decision to wait for the safe return of American hostages who were kidnapped by Iran in 1979. What are the difficult decisions President Bush has made? Do you think he has always made the right decision? If you do not agree with some of his choices, can you respect his decisions? Why or why not?

5. One of the commentators remarks that the best presidents always see how much better we can be as a country, the room we have as a nation to improve. What do you see as the most important goals for this country? Do not think in partisan terms (i.e., kick out all the Democrats). What are the problems we face as a nation? How can we fix these? What are our strengths, and what are our weaknesses?