European leaders rap to win votes

13th April, 2014

European leaders tried a new way to win votes. They used rap to get young people to vote for them. More and more young people are losing interest in elections. The number of young people who vote has gone down in the past ten years. The number was 87 per cent but in the last election, it was just 65 per cent. Younger politicians made a group called EU40. They said rap would get their message across to young Europeans. They took part in "a freestyle hip-hop battle" on April the 9th in the European Parliament. It was called the "Battle For Your Vote". The organizers said: "The aim is getting young voters interested in European politics and thus increasing young people's votes at the upcoming elections."

The European elections are in May. Europeans must choose 751 new politicians. The BBC reported on how the battle started. It wrote: "MEPs [Members of the European Parliament] were given the microphone for a minute to try and drum up some pre-election support. The conservative European People's Party tried to appeal to the young crowd by saying, 'If you like money, vote for the EPP'. And then the battle commenced." The politicians made short raps about many topics. The topics that were most popular were youth unemployment and immigration. Each rapper told the audience what they would do about these problems. They used short, rhyming sentences instead of the usual long speeches.

Sources: UNRIC.org / BBC / eu40.eu

Writing

1. *Politicians should rap so more young people will like them.* Discuss.

2. *Rap is not music. It is a different art form.* Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

leaders / win votes / elections / losing interest / message / freestyle / battle / hip-hop / politicians / microphone / drum / conservative / topics / unemployment / problems

True / False

a) European politicians are trying to be more popular by rapping. T / F

b) The percentage of young Europeans voting is increasing. T / F

c) A group of European politicians formed a rap group called EU40. T / F

d) The politicians took part in a freestyle hip-hop battle. T / F

e) Europeans will choose 75 new politicians in May's elections. T / F

f) The rapping politicians had two minutes each at the microphone. T / F

g) The most popular topics at the rap contest were education and health. T / F

h) Politicians rapped their solutions to political and economic problems. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	way	a.	formed
2	gone down	b.	attract
3.	made	c.	method
4.	took part	d.	goal
5.	aim	e.	decide on
6.	choose	f.	get
7.	drum up	g.	participated
8.	appeal to	h.	started
9.	commenced	i.	listeners
10.	audience	j.	decreased

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think of the idea of a rap battle?

b) Is a minute too short or too long for a politician's speech?

c) Would you vote for the party that asks if you like money?

d) What topics are most important in elections?

e) Is rap a good way to learn English?

f) Would a country's leader be more popular if they rapped?

g) Would you be a good rapper?

h) What questions would you like to ask a rapping politician?

Phrase Match

1.	European leaders tried a new	a.	pre-election support
2	They used rap to	b.	elections
3.	get their message	c.	unemployment
4.	They took part in a freestyle	d.	get young people to vote
5.	at the upcoming	e.	751 new politicians
6.	Europeans must choose	f.	hip-hop battle
7.	given the microphone	g.	way to win votes
8.	drum up some	h.	speeches
9.	youth	i.	across
10.	long	j.	for a minute

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think of rap?

b) Is rap a kind of music or something different?

c) Why don't old people like rap?

d) Is it a good idea for politicians to use rap?

e) Would you vote for a rapping politician?

f) Should politicians make speeches and leave raps to rappers?

g) Do you think the raps will make more young people vote?

h) Do you think anyone can rap?

Spelling

1. young people are losing ttiresne in elections

2. Younger opicianitsl

3. get their megsesa across

4. a tfesereyl hip-hop battle

5. interested in European copsilti

6. the cnimogup elections

7. Europeans must ecosoh 751

8. drum up some pre-election upprtso

9. The topics that were most luprapo

10. youth tuyennlepmmo and immigration

11. They used short, rhyming setscenne instead

12. the usual long sphcseee

Answers – Synonym Match

1. c	2. j	3. a	4. g	5. d
6. e	7. f	8. b	9. h	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Tax
You think tax is the most important topic in an election. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so important with their topics. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): jobs, the environment or healthcare.

Role B – Jobs
You think creating jobs the most important topic in an election. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so important with their topics. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): tax, the environment or healthcare.

Role C – Environment
You think the environment is the most important topic in an election. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so important with their topics. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): jobs, tax or healthcare.

Role D – Healthcare
You think healthcare is the most important topic in an election. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so important with their topics. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): jobs, the environment or tax.

Speaking – Elections

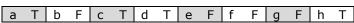Rank these with your partner. Put the most important issues at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- tax
- jobs
- education
- defence
- health
- environment
- immigration
- policing

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.