

Unity and Diversity  
Student panel: **On the Elections**

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## **Have We Denigrated the Public Discourse Beyond Repair?**

The votes have been tallied. Americans reported to the polls in record numbers on November 2. Happy or not about the outcome, the results are definitive. Perhaps more important than the results is a discussion of the process. Everyone should be pleased the campaign season is over, and we will no longer be subjected to half-truths and exaggerations designed to ply our weaknesses and scare us into submission. Where has enlightened political discourse gone and can it be revived within our lifetime? The instant gratification culture perpetuated by reality television and materialistic excess does not allow for nuanced political understanding. We are instead treated to sound-byte indictments and scare-tactic theater. Can we bring political campaigns back from the “dark side” of opponent demonization and give Americans an accurate depiction of the larger issues at stake?