

# The Clarion *online*

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## Opinion

### Why Vote?

By Adam Beeson

On November 2nd millions of young Americans, like myself, will be heading to the polls to cast a vote for the presidential candidate of their choice. In fact, over 20 million people between the ages of 18 and 25 are registered to vote in this election, an astonishing number considering only a little over 17 million of us voted in 2000. That's great, but do we really know what we are voting for?

I asked ten Brevard College students whom they were voting for and why they were voting for this person. Eight out of these ten people simply did not answer my question. Eight out of these ten people told me why they were NOT voting for the other candidate based on his image, personality, or something they heard from a friend, parent, teacher, or newscast.

So, we know what we do not want in a president. Wonderful. But I was still curious as to why people were voting for the candidate of their choice. Do they like his foreign policy? Do they like his economic plan? Maybe they think he will keep our country safe from horrifying terrorists like Cat Stevens. We know what we don't like in one candidate, but what do we like in the other?

It didn't take long before I came to the conclusion that most of the American people want to be included in the election of our president, but they don't want to make the effort to find a candidate who they truly support.

Too often, we believe what we hear from the people around us and, trust me; it's not easy to know the difference between fact and fiction. The bottom line is, 90% of Americans simply follow the lead that they are given and do not form opinions for themselves.

As part of the educated elite, students on this campus must understand what they stand for



**Question Of The Week:**  
What matters more to you in a Presidential candidate, policy or persona?

#### Rod Fincannon

"At this point, probably policy. I don't care too much for the personas of either one of them. I'm more concerned about foreign policy and who has the better policy."



#### Sarah Carlson

"Policy... but ya know, whatever they say, I don't believe them anyway, so I don't actually know what their policy is. But I like Kerry over Bush."



#### Andy Grizzell

"I would say policy would definitely rank higher with me than persona, knowing that they can go ahead and get the job done instead of doing what they feel they need to do but what they actually do. I like the