

# Researching Our Modern Leaders: Presidential Candidates

## *AVID College Readiness (ACR): Unit 3, Assignment 1*

In every Presidential election, Americans must decide on who will be the best Commander and Chief, the one most capable of leading our great country to better days. The 2008 Presidential election is no different. In fact, this election is more significant than recent elections do to the overwhelming social, political, and economical issues that Americans and other nations are facing today. As November 4 draws nearer, Americans will have to vote for a leader who they believe can efficiently and effectively address our nation's greatest concerns. But who is fit to lead? What do we know about the candidates? Concerned Americans attentively watch the news, read national newspapers, and do a bit of research on their own in order to learn about each presidential candidate.

For this assignment, you will choose one presidential candidate—Barack Obama (Democratic nominee) or John McCain (Republican nominee)—and explore his home, educational, political, cultural, and/ or religious contexts in which this leader lived in order to understand how these contexts influenced the leader and his goals, actions, and/or contributions.

### **Requirements:**

- Research 3-4 sources (two sources must be non-internet sources)
- Write a 2 page paper
- Incorporate visual support
- Follow MLA guidelines

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Cite sources accurately
- Paraphrase and summarize source material
- Incorporate credible sources into the paper
- Accurately and coherently account for factual events
- Explain the candidate's various experiences
- Analyze how his experiences shaped his goals, actions, and/or contributions
- Publish a draft that is thoroughly edited and revised