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## 10 current issues in the USA

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**Immigration:** Immigration is when people move from one country to another to live and work. In the United States, there are rules and laws that control who can come into the country and how they can stay. Some people come to the U.S. without permission, which means they don't have the right paperwork. People have different opinions about how to handle this. The DREAM Act is a proposed law that wants to help young people who came to the U.S. as children without proper paperwork to become legal residents. Learning about immigration helps us understand the experiences of immigrants and the challenges they face in a new country.

**Gun Control:** Gun control is a topic that many people talk about in the United States. It is about the laws and rules that decide who can have guns and how they can be used. Some people think that there should be stricter rules to make it harder for dangerous people to get guns. They want background checks to be done before someone can buy a gun and limits on the types of guns that people can own. Others believe that it's important to protect the right to have guns for self-defense and personal freedoms. Understanding gun control helps us see how it affects public safety and the rights of individuals.

**Racial and Ethnic Relations:** Racial and ethnic relations are important for understanding American society. The United States has a complex history when it comes to how people of different races and ethnicities have been treated. In the past, some people were enslaved because of their skin color, and there was a long fight for equal rights. Even today,

there are ongoing discussions about unfair treatment based on race, police violence, and discrimination. Movements like Black Lives Matter aim to address these issues and work towards fairness and justice. Learning about racial and ethnic relations helps us understand the experiences of different communities and promotes equality for all.

**Gender Equality:** Gender equality means treating everyone fairly, regardless of their gender. In the United States, there have been movements to make sure that women have the same rights and opportunities as men. For example, the women's suffrage movement fought for women's right to vote, and there are ongoing discussions about paying women and men the same for doing the same job. Gender equality also includes the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, who face their own unique challenges. By studying gender equality, we can support inclusivity and work towards a society where everyone has the same chances and rights.

**Healthcare:** Healthcare is an important topic in the United States. It is about how people get medical care when they are sick or hurt. One big issue is making sure that everyone can see a doctor when they need to. Healthcare can also be expensive, and many people struggle to pay for it. The Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, was a law that aimed to make healthcare more affordable and available to more people. Studying healthcare helps us understand the difficulties people face and the different ways countries organize their healthcare systems.

**Climate Change:** Climate change is a big concern in the United States. It means that the Earth's climate is changing, and it's causing problems like rising temperatures and more extreme weather events. The United States plays a significant role in addressing climate change. It involves discussions about reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy sources, and protecting the environment. Understanding climate change helps us see the impact of human activities on the planet and the importance of taking action to protect it.

**Income Inequality:** Income inequality is about the uneven distribution of money and resources among people in society. In the United States, there are big differences in how much money different people make. Some have a lot of money and others struggle to make ends meet. People have different opinions about what causes income inequality and how to address it. It involves discussions about raising the minimum wage, providing better job opportunities, and improving social programs. Learning about income inequality helps us understand the challenges faced by different social groups and the importance of fairness and equal opportunities.

**Political Polarization:** Political polarization is when people have strong disagreements and divide into opposing groups based on their political beliefs. In the United States, there is a growing divide between Republicans and Democrats. It affects how people think about important issues and how they vote. Politi-

cal polarization can make it difficult to find common ground and work together on solving problems. Understanding political polarization helps us see the importance of respectful dialogue, considering different perspectives, and finding ways to bridge the divide for the benefit of society.

**Criminal Justice System:** The criminal justice system in the United States involves how people who break the law are dealt with. There are ongoing discussions about issues like mass incarceration, police misconduct, and the fairness of punishment. Some people think that the system needs reform to be more fair and focus on rehabilitation instead of just punishment. Others believe in strong law enforcement to keep communities safe. Studying the criminal justice system helps us understand the importance of fairness, addressing systemic issues, and promoting justice for all.

**Education:** Education is an important topic in the United States. It involves how children and young people learn and the quality of schools. There are discussions about making sure that all students have equal access to a good education, regardless of where they live or their background. Topics include school funding disparities, standardized testing, and ways to improve the education system. Studying education helps us see the value of learning, the challenges faced by students and teachers, and the importance of providing equal opportunities for everyone.

- ① Discuss what you have read about the issues with your neighbor.
- ② Agree on three issues you find most interesting. Be prepared to give a reason for your choice.