

Born to Run?

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be president of the United States?

You would get to live in the White House. You would invite your friends to huge dinner parties. You would ride in a limousine with bulletproof tires. You would fly in your own airplane known as *Air Force One*.

You would also be the most powerful leader in the world. You would meet with other leaders to try to solve many problems. You could help bring peace to the world.

Sounds pretty cool, right?

Before you dream about being president, though, you need to ask yourself this question: "Was I born a citizen of the United States?"

If you weren't, your dream might end there.

People say that in the United States any dream is possible. However, that is not true for millions of Americans who were born outside this country.

In Article II, Section 1, the U.S. Constitution says “n

The Founders believed the law would help keep the United States safe. The law

was designed to keep other countries from putting a spy in charge of the U.S. government.

Orrin Hatch, a U.S. senator from Utah, thinks the law

is outdated. He is pushing to change the law. He and many other citizens want all Americans to have the right to become president.

Should Americans who were not born citizens be allowed to run for president? Read both sides of the debate, and then decide for yourself.

Yes! Every American citizen should have the right to be president

If you have earned the right to be an American, you should have the full rights of an American. Your place of birth should not hold you back from becoming anything you want in this country.

© 2012 ReadWorks®, Inc. All rights reserved. Article: Copyright © 2003 Weekly Reader Corporation. All rights reserved. *Weekly Reader* is a registered trademark of Weekly Reader Corporation. Used by permission.

Non-fiction: Born to Run?

ReadWorks _____

o Person except a

natural born Citizen...shall be eligible to the Office of President."

1

ReadWorks.org

Non-fiction: Born to Run?

ReadWorks _____

Foreign-born U.S. citizens pay taxes. They also are allowed to vote.

In times of war, they are expected to serve in the

armed forces. Any person willing to die for this country should also be allowed to hold its highest office.

The country's greatest strength is its people. Most U.S. citizens have their roots in other lands. Few people are truly native Americans.

The presidency law works against the United States. It keeps millions of loyal citizens out of the White House.

It's time the United States lived up to its promise as the land of opportunity for all. All citizens should be able to become president.

No! The U.S. president should be born on American soil

It may be a bitter pill to swallow, but not all American citizens should have the same opportunities.

The president is top dog. He or she must be completely loyal to the United States. A president who was not born a citizen might have ties to his or her birth country. That could create conflicts with the job.

Arnold Schwarzenegger was born in Austria. He was elected governor of California in 2003, but the presidency is a whole other story.

Americans might have less respect for a foreign-born president.

They might think that he or she does not understand them. That could make the president look weak. In turn, the country would look bad.

The Founding Fathers of our country were very wise. We should trust their judgment. It's not too much to ask immigrants to establish roots in this country before expecting to lead it. After all, an immigrant's U.S.-born child could become the president!

The job of president should be only for people born as citizens of the U.S.