**The 2016 Presidential Campaign has begun...even though it is only 2015!**

Being elected President is not an easy task, and there are many steps. There are two big political parties in the United States, the Democrats and the Republicans. Right now, there are 15 Republican candidates trying to convince Republican voters that they should be the official Republican pick to be in the final election in November 2016. Similarly, there are 6 Democrats trying to convince Democratic voters that they should be the official Democratic pick to be in the final election in November 2016. In the winter/spring, each party will have a things called **primaries and caucuses** to help pick their candidate, but right now, candidates are simply trying to get attention and money to help fund their campaigns. One way to get positive attention is to do well in a candidate’s debate.

Wednesday night, Republicans will hold their second debate of the year. It is sponsored by CNN and will be held at the Ronald Reagan Library in California. (Reagan was a Republican president from 1980 to 1988). Because there are so many Republicans running, the debate is split into two parts: “Segment B” is for the 11 candidates who have been in the top 10 slots in any polls from August to September and will be held at 8PM. “Segment A” is for the remaining 4 candidates who have had at least 1% support in polls, and will be held at 6PM.

**Segment A: 6PM**

Rick Santorum- Former Senator from Pennsylvania (1995-2007)

Lindsey Graham- US Senator from South Carolina

George Pataki- Former Governor of NY (1995-2006)

Bobby Jindal- Governor of Louisiana

**Segment B: 8 PM**

Jeb Bush- Former Governor of Florida (1999-2007)

Ben Carson-doctor

Chris Christie- Governor of New Jersey

Ted Cruz- Senator from Texas

Carly Fiorina-businesswoman

Mike Huckabee-former Governor of Arkansas (1996-2007)

John Kasich-Governor of Ohio

Rand Paul-Senator from Kentucky

Marco Rubio-Senator from Florida

Donald Trump- businessman

Scott Walker- Governor of Wisconsin

**Challenge:** Watch at least 20 minutes of debate and write a “political journal” reacting. What did you see? What did they discuss? What questions do you have? You can include your impressions of the candidates but you need to discuss some issues that were discussed- I don’t want a whole journal entry on who talked really fast or who wore the best tie. It should be at least ½ page typed and can be passed in by hand or shared to me at blumera@welleseleyps.org. Remember that doing challenge work helps your homework grade for the term.