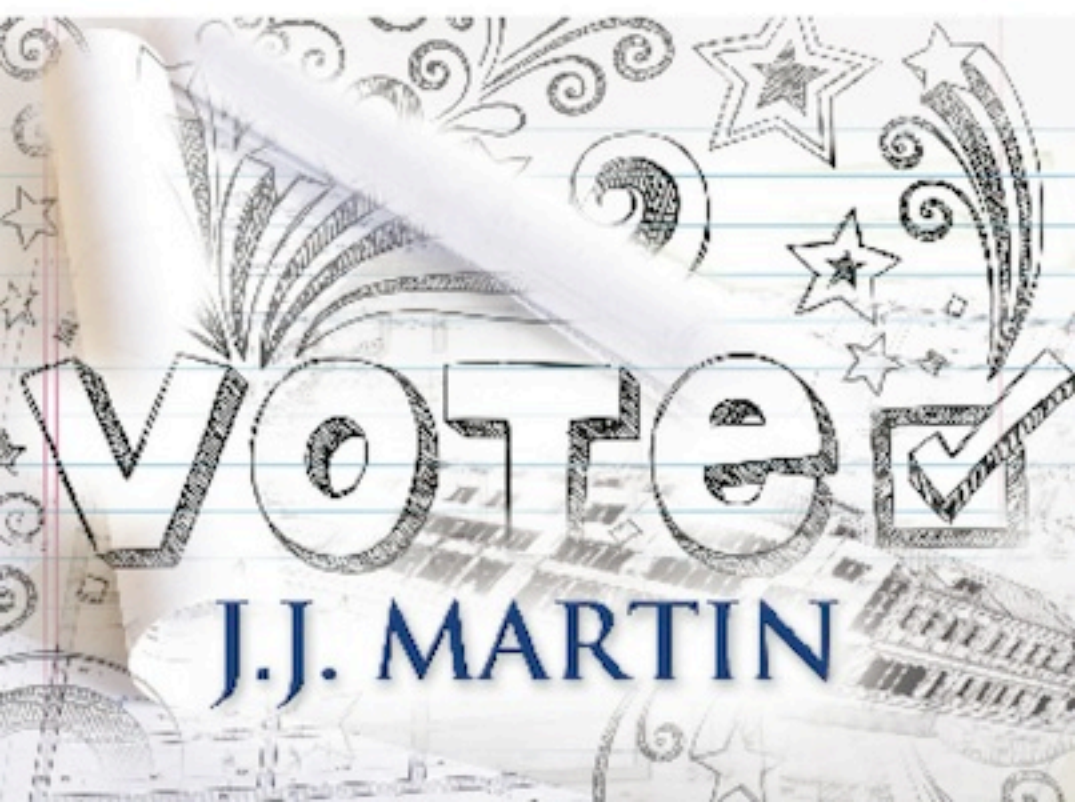
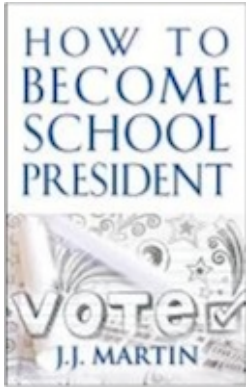


# HOW TO BECOME SCHOOL PRESIDENT



J.J. MARTIN



*How to Become High School President* will show students how the world of politics really works by referring to familiar power structures within the education system. This book is about power and work. It is a story about decisions that were taken by a student just like you in order to achieve his goal of becoming school Prime Minister. It was published for one reason: to help you achieve whatever goal you set for yourself.

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How to  
Become  
School President

**J.J. Martin**

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First Edition

# THE WORLD OF POLITICS

This book focuses on showing you the reality of what takes place in politics. In 1999, I was elected Prime Minister of my high school. It was a result of my studies in history, politics and the arts. It was also the result of the increase in my own political awareness, and my realization of the type of effect that politics has on each of our lives.

The way you view the world, the way you think about current events. The way you think about current events and what current events matter and don't matter to you are to a great extent influenced by the media.

Written media, through newspapers, magazines, and books; visual media, through television, video games, and movies; and finally audio media, which includes radio news, talk-shows and music - they all grab our attention, direct our attention, and often influence our decision making when it comes to all types of decisions we make every day, some more important than others.

“When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President. I’m beginning to believe it.”

Clarence Darrow 1857-1938: Irving Stone Clarence  
Darrow for the Defense 1941 (pg.8)<sup>1</sup>

While we are aware of how present the media is in our lives, we do not acknowledge how much influence it has on us throughout our lives. However, to even a greater extent, we do not realize the way that government influences our lives.

It’s the government that regulates many of the things that we need to do, like pay taxes.

“Gilbert Harding, applying for a U.S. visa, was irritated by having to fill in a long form with many questions, including ‘Is it your intention to overthrow the Government of the United States by force?’: SOLE PURPOSE OF VISIT.” [Gilbert Harding 1907-60: W. Reyburn Gilbert Harding (1978) (pg.8) 1

## *How to Become School President*

The government also regulates many of the things that we choose to do like working, travelling, and doing business.

Finally, the government also plays a role in our entertainment. Activities like going to the parks, drinking, smoking, or going to strip clubs are regulated and monitored by the government.

Most of the functions of the government have a positive impact in society, and all of its functions have been in the past or are seen today as necessities in our daily lives.

Safety regulations at work and laws, which deter crime and other threats to human life such as dangerous driving, have positive effects to the promotion of societal growth and the promotion of happiness.

“No government ought to be without censors: and where the press is free, no one ever will. Thomas Jefferson 1743-1826: letter to George Washington, 9 September 1792.” (pg.45) 1

***“On the other hand, leadership can, of course, be used for good. Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Ghandi provide us with the best examples. Both were freedom-fighters, fully engaged in the struggle for self-determination and democracy for their respective peoples. But they fought without weapons. Mandela used the eloquence of his oratory and the certain knowledge that he was on the side of right, to bring down the evil regime of apartheid in South Africa.2 (pg.9)***

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## *How to Become School President*

Those people who realize the great extent that the government affects our schooling, our businesses, how we raise our children, when we retire, are usually involved in politics in some form. They may choose to become reporters, radio or television commentators, writers, and lobbyists, amongst many other jobs. Those people who know how much power the government really has and who want to sway that power one-way or another are those who become politicians.

# **BECOMING HIGH SCHOOL PRIME MINISTER: GETTING INVOLVED**

In this work, I first introduce questions, ideas, and concepts, which came to me as I ran for high school prime minister, and then as I served my one-year term through that position. Then I carefully chose some quotes from

“The Prince by Machiavelli,” and commented on them as per their application to student politics. There are pictures and paintings of great leaders that serve as inspiration and motivation.

The quotes of great thinkers and their wise words apply to issues we face today, just as much as they did in their own times. The reader will also note that through pictures and art, I have also highlighted what I see as some of the most important topics of today.

Through this book, I wish to inspire the youth of this world so that the very issues I have laid out attract the attention that they deserve, as their solution equals our longevity.

*J.J. Martin*

“I often think its comical how nature always does contrive, that every boy and every gal, that’s born into the world alive, is either a little liberal, or else a little conservative!

W.S. Gilbert 1836-1911: *Iolanthe* (1882) 1pg. 248.

Becoming prime minister does not only mean winning an important election. Rather, it means a wide variety of things like becoming involved in your community’s elections, writing to your politicians, voicing your concerns at local committee meetings, voting and simply discussing politics the next time you go for coffee.

# Allies

Make allies. Trustworthy ones. Trust only those who need you in order to get what they want. Do not trust those who do not need you. In fact, do not trust anyone 100 percent. Be careful in this area. If someone needs you to get their aim, it is more likely that they will be loyal to you than if they don't. If they are an older student or more experienced student and they seem to be on your side, listen to their advice but only follow it when your own gut tells you that it's right to do so.

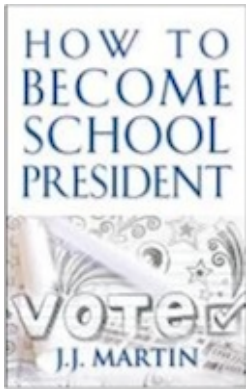
*He seemed much greater than a private citizen while he still was a private citizen, and by everyone's consent capable of reigning if only he had not reigned.*

*OF THE EMPEROR GALBA -- Tacitus AD 56-after 117:  
Histories (pg. 258) 1*

There are many arguments as to whether we need enemies or obstacles in life. Do not however, go out of your way to make enemies. Also keep in mind that making enemies and having obstacles after becoming

*J.J. Martin*

president is much more preferable than having them before you become president.



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