

***Game Change* (2010) – Chapter 3**

**“The Ground Beneath Her Feet”**

**Guided Reflection Questions**

**Primary Debatable Issue for the Unit**

**What is the most important factor in being elected President in modern American**

**politics?**

**Directions**

Students can work in groups, in pairs, or individually on these guided reflection questions. Then a teacher-led discussion can help students understand the text as a source of evidence for arguments on the debatable issue.

1. Why does former President Bill Clinton think that Hillary Clinton would have a tougher time winning the Democratic primary than she would in the general election, if she gets the nomination? What does his view imply about the key factors to being elected President in modern American politics?

2. What senatorial vote of Hillary’s does Bill Clinton spend so much time trying to help her explain away or finesse, and why does he think it is so important to do this?

3. How does Hillary distinguish her own leadership from that of other leading Democratic officials of the time? How does she distinguish her campaign from her husband’s administration? Are these distinctions important to her possible success as a prospective Presidential candidate, as she thinks they are?

4. What does Hillary finally end up doing to distance herself from her prior senatorial vote, referenced in question 2 above? What are the downsides of her “solution,” according to *Game Change*?

5. What is the focus of the article on Bill Clinton that the *New York Times* begin to do research on to report? Why is it so potentially threatening to Hillary’s chances to win the nomination? What is Hillary’s campaign staff’s role in the article?

6. Name the three most important weaknesses that Barack Obama would have as a candidate for President, according to Hillary (before Obama got in the race)?