**Pro –Impeachment**

U.S. President Andrew Johnson should’ve been impeached in the Senate  
  
I. He was uneducated. Johnson's only formal education was an apprenticeship to a tailor; he didn't learn how to read until his wife taught him at 17 years of age. He was not fit to run the country because of this. A President needs to know what they are doing, and be able to make intelligent decisions, and Johnson obviously didn't.  
  
II. His actions were counterproductive. Right after the civil war, he constantly vetoed reconstruction acts and civil rights acts.  
He essentially wanted to return America to exactly what it was right before the war. The Freeman’s Bureau, Reconstruction Act, and Civil Rights Bill were all vetoed by him. He also believed America should've been run by white men; showing that he is someone who shouldn't have been president following a war on slavery. He clearly was a white supremacist and did not want to help African Americans advance in the South. He also did not take action to stop Southern States from passing black codes and pardoned thousands of former Confederate leaders in the South. Violence and intimidation such as incidents as the riots that took place in New Orleans in 1866; in which the KKK reportedly killed dozens of African Americans also took place. In these cases Johnson took no action to stop them  
  
III. He violated the Tenure of Office Act. Andrew Johnson wanted total control; he fired everyone who was against him. This violated the Tenure of Office Act, which was passed so that Presidents could not gain too much power. It restricted the firing of executive officers appointed by past presidents without consent from the senate; however, Andrew Johnson kept firing officers anyways.

**Against Impeachment**

Andrew Johnson's career in politics,  
Mayor of his home town from 1830-1833  
Tennessee house of representatives from 1835-1837 and again from 1839-1841  
Elected as a Tennessee governor in 1841  
US House of representatives for 10 years from 1843-1853  
Tennessee Senator in 1857  
Vice President to Lincoln from 1862 to 1865  
  
Serving as a Governor, Congressman, Mayor, and as a Senator, Andrew Johnson was one of the most qualified people to be president in his day, and for the record one cannot be impeached for being (allegedly) inexperienced.  
  
2) Andrew Johnson was indeed a racist, but that is not why he was impeached, nor is it a justifiable reason on why a president should be impeached.  
  
3) Andrew Johnson was not power hungry, he was impeached because he fired one secretary and one secretary only, his secretary of war Edwin Stanton, and replace him with Ulysses S Grant, a Civil War Hero who would actually serve as president after Johnson.  
  
As of today, the secretary of War is a position that no longer exists  
  
In 1867 Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act that meant the Senate must give consent for the President to fire an advisor. Such an act today would violate the idea of the separation of powers which would make the law unconstitutional.  
  
Lastly the law that Johnson had allegedly violated, the Tenure of Office Act, was REPEALED in 1887, and then the Supreme Court declared such a law was unconstitutional in 1926  
  
So to summarize,  
1) President Johnson was impeached because he fired a man from a position that no longer exists  
2) He was impeached over violating a law that today no longer exists. These laws were simply made up by congress as a method to limit his power and to find a loophole to remove him from office, simply because he did not agree with the Radical Reconstruction policies.  
3) He was impeached over a law that was later formally declared unconstitutional by the US Supreme Court