

## Donald Trump

# Four Indictments

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#### WHAT IN THE WORLD?

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#### Hay'sxw'qa!

LesPlan is grateful to the Lkwungen Peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose unceded land we now live, and do our work.

We welcome your comments and appreciate your suggestions. Please contact us at any time.

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LesPlan Educational Services Ltd. aims to help teachers develop students' engagement in, understanding of, and ability to critically assess current issues and events by providing quality, up-to-date, affordable, ready-to-use resources appropriate for use across the curriculum.





I have had many parents comment to me about how great they think What in the World? is, and they look forward to each month's issue coming home... This is a great resource for a small country school to explore the global issues that affect us all.

> K. Camelon, Grade 7/8 teacher Admaston, ON



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#### **BEFORE READING**

- 1. Have students view a summary of the charges Donald Trump is facing: <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2255437891519">https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2255437891519</a> [1:35]
- 2. After viewing, distribute 3 sticky notes to each student and have students write the following, each on a different note:
- 1 word that sums up what they saw;
- 1 emotion that they are feeling about what they saw;
- 1 question that they have about what they saw.
- 3. Ask students to join with a partner to compare ideas. Then have each pair join with another to compare ideas.
- 4. Next, share as a class the words, emotions, and questions generated from the video.
- 5. Finally, invite students to set a purpose for reading the article, referring to the resource page **Setting A Purpose Before Reading** as needed.





Former U.S. president Donald Trump is facing an astonishing 91 **felony** charges and four high-profile trials for a host of crimes he is accused of committing. If found guilty of any of them, he could go to prison for years.

Mr. Trump, a Republican, served one term as U.S. president between 2017 and 2021. But after a fair election in November 2020, he lost the job to the current president, Democrat Joe Biden. Now Mr. Trump's legal woes are closing in just as his campaign to become the Republican candidate in the 2024 presidential election accelerates.

#### A TRAFFIC JAM OF CHARGES

This is the first time that any U.S. president has been charged with a criminal offence, let alone so many. Authorities have accused him of everything from mishandling top secret documents to promoting an election **fraud** that helped **incite** 

a deadly riot. They charge that he also illegally misused funds meant to support his 2016 presidential bid.

To understand how the criminal charges could play out, let's look at each of them.

#### A PAYOFF GONE WRONG?

The former president was first charged in New York State in March 2023. He faces 34 counts of improperly using money donated to his 2016 election campaign. State prosecutors allege that Mr. Trump illegally used campaign funds to pay \$130,000 to a woman to remain silent about an affair. Mr. Trump angrily pled not guilty to the charges when he appeared in court, but if the allegations are proven true, he could go to prison for up to four years.

#### STASHING SECRET PAPERS?

Then, on June 9, 2023, **special counsel** Jack Smith and the **U.S. Department** 

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The Republicans and the Democrats are the two main political parties in the U.S. The Republicans are more conservative. They believe in less government control, a strong military, and less taxes. The Democrats are more progressive. They emphasize the military less, but the environment and social programs more.

of Justice charged Mr. Trump with 37 felonies. The claim this time? Prosecutors say the former president willfully ignored official requests to turn over secret material that belonged to the government.

In 2022, acting on a **search warrant**, the **FBI** scoured his home and private club in Florida and found about 100 **classified** documents. The Justice Department is arguing that many of the documents had highly sensitive

#### **DEFINITIONS**

ALLEGATION: a statement made without giving proof, accusing somebody of doing something that is wrong or illegal CLASSIFIED: officially secret and available only to certain people FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation – the U.S. intelligence and security service and main federal law enforcement agency FELONY: a serious crime in the U.S.

**FRAUD**: the act of cheating somebody in order to get money, goods, or a position of power illegally

**INCITE**: to encourage somebody to do something violent, illegal, or unpleasant, especially by making them angry or excited

**SEARCH WARRANT**: an official document that allows the police to search a building or private property

**SPECIAL COUNSEL**: a lawyer appointed to investigate, and possibly prosecute, a case in which the Justice Department might face a conflict, or if it is determined to be in the public interest to have someone outside the government take responsibility **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**: the branch of the U.S. government that enforces federal laws, seeks punishment for the guilty, and ensures a fair trial

information about other nations, the U.S. military, and even nuclear weapons, and that they should not have been in Mr. Trump's possession.

Then, on July 27, prosecutors added three more charges because they say that Mr. Trump tried to thwart investigators by telling an aide to hide boxes that may have contained classified documents. One day later, a tape was released that featured the ex-president boasting while apparently holding classified papers about plans for a possible U.S. attack on Iran. The people he was with did not have security clearance to see the documents.

Once again, Mr. Trump pled not guilty at his **arraignment** and strongly maintained that he did nothing wrong. But if convicted, he could face up to 10 years in prison.

#### **ELECTION THEFT?**

Next, on August 1, Mr. Smith and the U.S. Federal Justice Department charged Mr Trump with four new felonies that could also see him go to jail for ten years. This time, he was accused of conspiring to steal the election from Mr. Biden. On August 3, he again pled not guilty.

His false claims of election victory could also have contributed to the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol building – the place where lawmakers gather. That day, after he gave a speech to supporters, a mob stormed the site hoping to stop Joe Biden from becoming president. Five people died as a result of the riot.

#### RACKETEERING IN GEORGIA?

In the fourth indictment, issued on August 14, the state of Georgia accused Mr. Trump of 13 felonies, including **racketeering**, for tampering with the 2020 election in its **jurisdiction**. Also charged were 18 of Mr. Trump's colleagues. Among them was his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, who was once mayor of New York City.

The prosecutor's broad investigation found evidence that the Trump team tried to intimidate officials, election workers, and others into claiming he had won in the state. The group also allegedly tampered with voting equipment. Mr. Trump and others could face up to 20 years in prison if found guilty.

#### JAIL TIME? IT'S COMPLICATED

Does all this mean Mr. Trump will go to jail if he's found guilty of any of the 91 charges? Not necessarily. Sending the former president to prison could create legal headaches for authorities and prompt a crisis in the U.S. For one thing, former presidents receive protection 24/7 from the **Secret Service**. How could that work in prison? And suppose Mr. Trump is re-elected in 2024, then sent to jail. Could he run the country while imprisoned?

Many legal scholars believe that if he is re-elected, he won't spend time behind bars. They suggest that his presidential responsibilities would require any sentence to at least be put on hold until he was out of office.

Alternatively, he may try to pardon himself. A president can pardon a

person convicted of federal crimes. However, presidents can not pardon anyone from state crimes, so Mr. Trump may ultimately have to face justice in New York and Georgia, regardless of the election's outcome.

#### **STILL A FRONT-RUNNER**

Will all the charges make a difference in the 2024 election? Surprisingly, right now the race to decide who will represent the Republicans in the next presidential election is still too close to call. Here's why: For years, Mr. Trump has argued that his political enemies have tried to bring him down for their own deceitful purposes. There is no evidence of this. But his supporters see the charges as proof that he was right all along.

"All of these indictments essentially reinforce Trump's core message that the system is rigged," Republican strategist Doug Heye said. "[His base] absolutely do not believe that he has broken the law."

At present, polls show that Mr. Trump is ahead of all other Republican presidential candidates by a wide margin, and few of the Republicans running against him want to bring up his legal woes for fear of losing votes. So, he's likely to become the party's candidate, which means he will face President Joe Biden in the November 2024 presidential election. Currently, polls indicate that Joe Biden is leading by a small margin of two to four percent.

Will Mr. Trump go to jail, be the next U. S. president, both – or neither? Stay tuned. ★

#### **DEFINITIONS**

**ARRAIGNMENT**: the first step in a criminal proceeding where the defendant appears in court to hear charges and enter a plea **JURISDICTION**: a country, state, or other area where a particular set of laws or rules must be obeyed

**RACKETEERING**: organized criminal activities that use illegal schemes, in this case to try to keep Mr. Trump in power **SECRET SERVICE**: a branch of the U.S. government responsible for providing protection to the president

#### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Name the two main political parties in the U.S. Briefly describe what each one stands for.
2. Who is the current U.S. president? When was he elected and what party does he represent?
3. Who was the previous president and what party does he represent?
4. What role is Mr. Trump hoping to play in the next presidential election?
5. What do recent polls show about the race to secure the Republican presidential nomination?
6. How many criminal charges was Mr. Trump facing in mid-August?
7. Identify and describe the first set of charges that were brought against the former president.
8. Identify and describe the second set of charges that were brought against the former president.
9. Identify and describe the third set of charges against the former president.
10. Identify and describe the fourth set of charges against the former president.

#### QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

1. The article quotes Republican strategist Doug Heye: "All of these indictments essentially reinforce Trump's core message that the system is rigged. [His base] absolutely do not believe that he has broken the law."
As you see it, why are Trump supporters so loyal, regardless of the 91 felony charges against him? Give reasons to support your opinion.
2. August 23 marks the first major Republican debate, where top candidates for the 2024 election will face off to earn the party's nomination for leader. There is speculation whether or not Donald Trump will participate in this debate, because he is so far ahead of his nearest competitor in the polls.
Many observers note that Mr. Trump's competitors, though hoping to pass him in the polls, are afraid to mention his lega troubles for fear of losing voter support. Many Republicans who feel the party needs to move away from Mr. Trump and the drama he brings to the table are hopeful that this debate will be an opportunity for candidates to speak out against him.
What advice would you give to these candidates seeking to gain more support in the polls during this debate? Give examples to explain your ideas.
3. Many elected U.S. Republican officials have commented on the multiple legal charges that Donald Trump is facing. Mike Pence, former vice-president to Mr. Trump, who is also seeking the Republican party nomination for the 2024 election, had this to say about one of Mr. Trump's indictments: "Today's indictment serves as an important reminder: Anyone who puts himself over the Constitution should never be President of the United States. I will have more to say about the government's case after reviewing the indictment. The former president is entitled to the presumption of innocence but with this indictment, his candidacy means more talk about January 6th and more distractions. Our country is more important than one man. Our Constitution is more important than any one man's career."
Do you agree with Mr. Pence's comments? Why or why not? Do you believe that Mr. Trump will win the party nomination for the 2024 election? Explain.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR ONLINE EXPLORATION**

Note: The links below are listed at www.lesplan.com/links for easy access.
1. Explore a more detailed summary of the magnitude of the charges Mr. Trump is facing:  https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/trump-cases-summary-1.6786650  https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2255425091951 [15:05]  https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/post/trump-charged-with-racketeering-crime-in-georgiaheres-what-that-means/
What additional information did you learn? What questions do you still have?
2. Check out the news reports that appeared right after each of Mr. Trump's four criminal charges:
#1: Daniels affair https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/ny-grand-jury-trump-1.6731596
#2: Classified documents <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2226263619742">https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2226263619742</a> [2:37] <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/donald-trump-camera-footage-classified-documents-1.6920052">https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/donald-trump-camera-footage-classified-documents-1.6920052</a>
#3: Election theft  https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2251009091970 [2:36]  https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2251940419920 [3:12]
#4: Racketeering <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2255431747818">https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2255431747818</a> [2:41] <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2255303747729">https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2255303747729</a> [7:14]
Which of these charges do you feel has the most evidence to result in a conviction? Explain.
3. Find out what the indictments mean for Trump's reelection bid: <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2255439939535">https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2255439939535</a> [6:45]
Do you agree with the experts? Why or why not?

4. How does a U.S. presidential election work?

https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/post/wondering-about-the-u.s.-presidential-election-heres-how-it-works/

5. Prior to the presidential election in November, U.S. states hold primaries and caucuses. Learn more about how they work: <a href="https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=ojELcKHdwvA">https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=ojELcKHdwvA</a> [2:26]



#### YOUR TASK:

Examine the editorial cartoon. Then, use the questions below to help you decode the cartoon's message. Be specific and include as many details as possible in your answers. *Note*: The **Editorial Cartoons** resource page (p. 55) may be useful.

#### **INITIAL READING:** What can an initial look reveal?

- 1. Glance quickly at the cartoon. What is your first impression your "gut response"?
- 2. Consider your background knowledge. What do you already know about the context of the cartoon the time, place or situation? (List key facts.)

#### **CLOSER LOOK:** What's happening in the cartoon?

- 3. Describe what you *see* and *read* in the cartoon.
- 4. As you see it, what do the shoes in the cartoon symbolize? Whom do you suppose they are piled on top of?
- 5. What is your understanding of the expression "waiting for the other shoe to drop"? Use a dictionary or online source to help you define this expression, if necessary.

#### **DRAW CONCLUSIONS:** What overall impression can you draw?

- 6. Identify possible biases. Whose perspective or point of view is expressed in the cartoon?
- 7. Explain the overall message of the cartoon in a paragraph. (Remember, a good interpretation is *specific* and *detailed*.)  $\bigstar$  Prepared with assistance from TC<sup>2</sup>, The Critical Thinking Consortium. © 2023



Complete this map assignment to better understand the article What's Next For Donald Trump?

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
- 2. Colour your map <u>after</u> all labelling is completed.
- 3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
- 4. Work carefully and neatly.

**Resources Required:** pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

**Part A** Complete the map key to show the three U.S. states where ex-President Donald Trump is facing criminal charges. Shade each of these states red:

**Part B** Complete the map key to show the capital of the United States where ex-President Donald Trump is also facing criminal charges. <u>Underline</u> this city name.

**Part C** Locate and label the following U.S. states in CAPITAL letters. Shade these states orange and shade all remaining U.S. territory pink.

Michigan Wisconsin Pennsylvania
New Jersey Massachusetts Maryland
Virginia West Virginia Ohio
Indiana Illinois Iowa

Missouri Kentucky North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee Arkansas

Louisiana Mississippi Alabama

**Part D** Locate and label the following and shade each as indicated:

Canada (green) Bahamas (yellow)

Part E Locate and label the capital of Canada and underline.

**Part F** Draw and label the following rivers and shade them light blue:

Mississippi River Ohio River

Tennessee River St. Lawrence River

**Part G** Locate and label the Great Lakes and shade them light blue:

**Part H** Locate and label the following and shade all salt water dark blue:

Atlantic Ocean Gulf of Mexico

**Part I** Complete your map with a frame, title and compass. ★



United States

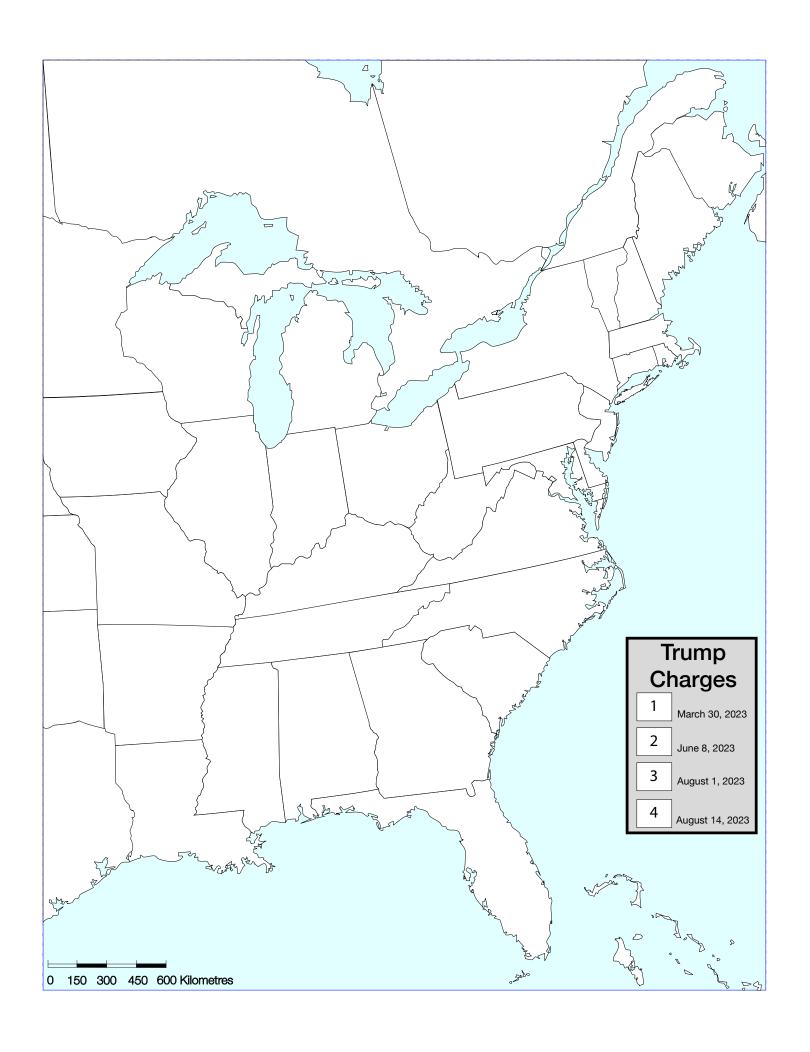






New York

la Georgia



#### PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

A. Write the letter that corresponds to the <u>best</u> answ	ver on the line beside each question:
1. Who is the current U.S. president?  a) Rudy Giuliani c) Joe Biden e) Donald Trump  2. A serious crime in the U.S. is called a(n): a) indictable offence c) violation e) misdemeanor	b) Taylor Swift d) Justin Trudeau b) summary offence d) felony
a) Florida and New Jersey c) Iowa and New Hampshire e) New York and Georgia	nst Mr. Trump?  b) Georgia and California d) Washington and New York
B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a state below. If a statement is <u>False</u> , write the words that m 4. <b>True</b> or <b>False?</b> The two main American po	
5. <b>True</b> or <b>False?</b> Law enforcement officials for	ound about 100 classified documents at Mr. Trump's Texas residence.
6. <b>True</b> or <b>False?</b> The Republican presidentia	al nomination race is very competitive.
C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.	
7. FBI = Federal Bureau of	·
8. A legal document, signed by a judge, that allows lar private property is called a	w enforcement officials to enter and look for or take things from
	ch of the U.S. government responsible for protecting a president.
D. Respond to the following question in paragraph	
10. As you see it, should Donald Trump be allowed to	o run for president in 2024? Give reasons to support your response.

## RESOURCE PAGE FOR STUDENTS SETTING A PURPOSE BEFORE READING

There are a number of reasons we read, and setting a purpose for reading – knowing WHY we are reading – helps us to focus on important information and to better understand and remember what we read. It also helps us decide HOW we will read the text.

We don't read all texts for the same purposes or in the same way. For example, we read an instruction manual for a new Blu-ray player for a different reason than we read a book or a website. How we will read it – the strategies we use – will also differ. We are more likely to skim to find the information we need in a manual. Once we find what we need, we might read the instructions carefully to figure out what to do. Then, we stop reading, put the manual down, and carry out the steps. We may have to reread if we get confused or forget what to do.

This is a very different approach than the one we would use to read a book. When we read a book, we usually read cover-to-cover. We read carefully so we don't miss any details because we want to understand the whole story. Sometimes we make connections or create images in our minds as we read to help us better understand what we are reading. Depending on its length, we may put the book down before we finish reading it but we will start reading where we left off.

Good readers are flexible and responsive. This means that they match their reading strategies to their purpose for reading. What types of text do you read? Why do you read them? What strategies do you use to read each of these texts? The chart below is a summary of the main purposes for reading and what each entails.

Purpose for reading	What it looks like		
For enjoyment	Usually student-selected.		
	Allows students to choose a variety of genres and forms.		
	Allows students to pursue what interests them while developing reading skills.		
To experience something new	Students make connections between their personal experiences and those of people around the world.		
To learn more about themselves and others	Students reflect on what they've read and express opinions and perspectives.		
	Students develop a sense of their personal values and make sense of the world around them.		
To gain information	Students use the features of informational texts to gather, analyse and apply what they've learned.		
To understand issues	Students develop a sense of perspective.		
	Students pose questions, acknowledge other points of view, critique the opinions presented and support opinions with evidence.		
To appreciate writing	Students respond to text in ways other than written answers to apply what they've learned in new contexts.		
To appreciate use of media to communicate	Students respond to a variety of media formats (e.g., infographics, political cartoons, videos, etc.) and react to how the format supports the meaning of the message.		

<sup>\*</sup> Chart adapted from: A Guide to Effective Literacy Instruction, Grades 4-6, p. 11.





This rubric may be helpful in providing students with formative, strength-based feedback and/or assessing students' responses holistically.

	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Supports thinking	Answers or reflections are brief and include obvious facts/details/ evidence.	Answers or reflections are general and supported with some relevant facts/details/evidence.	Answers or reflections are clearly supported with specific, relevant facts/details/evidence.	Answers or reflections are insightful and supported with specific, relevant facts/details/evidence.
Shows understanding	Responses show a basic understanding of the text, topic, issue or message.	Responses are thoughtful and show a general understanding of the text, topic, issue or message.	Responses are thoughtful and show a complete understanding of the text, topic, issue or message.	Responses are insightful and show a deep understanding the text, topic, issue or message. May synthesize ideas or explain the 'so what'.
Thinks critically	Makes straightforward connections or inferences. Focuses on retelling.	Makes logical connections to self (T:S) and/ or background knowledge (T:S). Inferences are logical.	Makes meaningful connections to self. Considers ideas between texts (T:T). Inferences are plausible.	Makes powerful connections that go between texts and/or beyond the text (T:W).  Inferences are plausible and insightful.



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# grade 3 & up

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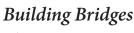
**Product details:** 8 issues. 60 pages. Available in English and in French, and in 2 reading levels, for grades 5 and up.

#### Currents4Kids.com News4Youth.com

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- ✓ Links to relevant articles, resources, maps, photos and videos
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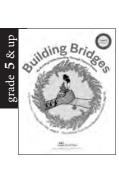
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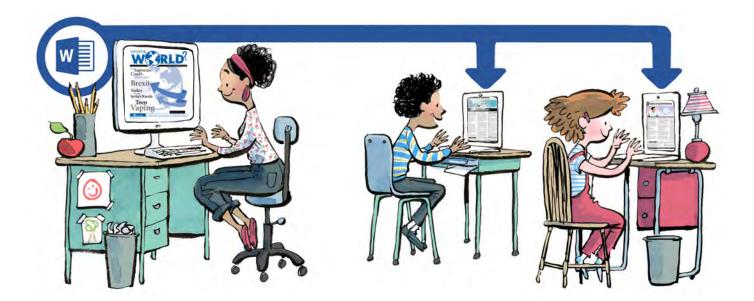


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There are **three** ways to access data from a **Word** file that is password protected:

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- LibreOffice is a free alternate to Microsoft Office and offers the same functionality. It's easy to install and use. See: www.libreoffice.org

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