

CHAPTER
13
SECTION 5

READING COMPREHENSION

The Presidential Election

3

1. On what type of voters do campaigns focus much of their efforts following the national conventions?

2. What are "battleground States," and what importance do they play in campaign strategy?

3. When people vote in a presidential election, for whom are they actually voting?

4. How is the role of presidential electors different today from the way the Framers envisioned it?

5. How and when are the electors chosen?

6. When and where do the electors cast their electoral votes?

7. What happens to the electors' ballots after they are cast?

8. When does the formal election of the President and Vice President take place?

9. What happens on that date?

10. What if no candidate for President has won a majority of electoral votes?

11. What if no candidate for Vice President has won a majority of electoral votes?

12. Who acts as President if neither a President-elect nor a Vice President-elect has qualified by Inauguration Day?

READING COMPREHENSION (continued)

The Presidential Election

3

13. What are the three major defects in the electoral college system?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
14. What are the two main reasons that the winner of the popular vote does not always win the presidency?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
15. What are the three main objections to election by the House?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
16. Complete the table to describe the proposed electoral college reforms.

Plan	Details	Requires Constitutional Amendment? (Yes/No)
District plan		
Proportional plan		
Direct popular election		
National popular vote plan		

17. Name at least three arguments against direct popular election.

18. What are the three major strengths of the electoral college system?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

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READING COMPREHENSION

The Presidential Election

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1. Explain the importance of swing voters and battleground states to a presidential campaign.

a. swing voters: _____

b. battleground states: _____

2. Compare the Framers' plan for how electors should vote for the President with the way electors vote today.

3. How are electors chosen in each state?

4. Describe the three flaws in the electoral college system.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

READING COMPREHENSION (continued)

The Presidential Election

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5. A number of reforms have been proposed for the electoral college. Draw an arrow to connect the name of each reform plan to the proposed reform.

Reform Plan

District plan

- a. States would amend their election laws. The new state laws would provide that all of a state's electoral votes are awarded to the candidate who wins the majority of the popular vote.

National popular vote plan

- b. Each vote in the nation would count equally. The winner would always be the majority choice. This plan would do away with the electoral college.

Direct popular election

- c. Each candidate would get a share of the electoral vote equal to his or her share of the popular vote.

Proportional plan

- d. Two electors would be chosen from each state. They would be required to vote in line with their state's popular vote. Other electors would come from each state's congressional districts and must cast their votes to match the popular vote in their districts.

6. List the three strengths of the electoral college system.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

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CORE WORKSHEET A**The Presidential Election****3**

This table shows the number of electoral votes allotted to each State. On another paper, answer the questions about how States are represented in the presidential election process.

Electoral College Votes By State					
Alabama	9	Kentucky	8	North Dakota	3
Alaska	3	Louisiana	9	Ohio	20
Arizona	10	Maine	4	Oklahoma	7
Arkansas	6	Maryland	10	Oregon	7
California	55	Massachusetts	12	Pennsylvania	21
Colorado	9	Michigan	17	Rhode Island	4
Connecticut	7	Minnesota	10	South Carolina	8
Delaware	3	Mississippi	6	South Dakota	3
District of Columbia	3	Missouri	11	Tennessee	11
Florida	27	Montana	3	Texas	34
Georgia	15	Nebraska	5	Utah	5
Hawaii	4	Nevada	5	Vermont	3
Idaho	4	New Hampshire	4	Virginia	13
Illinois	21	New Jersey	15	Washington	11
Indiana	11	New Mexico	5	West Virginia	5
Iowa	7	New York	31	Wisconsin	10
Kansas	6	North Carolina	15	Wyoming	3

1. Which State has the most electoral votes, and how many does it have?
2. Which States have only three votes?
3. How many electoral votes does your State have?
4. It takes 270 electoral votes to win the Presidency. What is the fewest number of States a candidate would need to become President? Explain.
5. Do you think the distribution of electoral votes is fair? Do you think the electoral college can accurately represent the will of the American public? Explain.

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CORE WORKSHEET B**The Presidential Election****3**

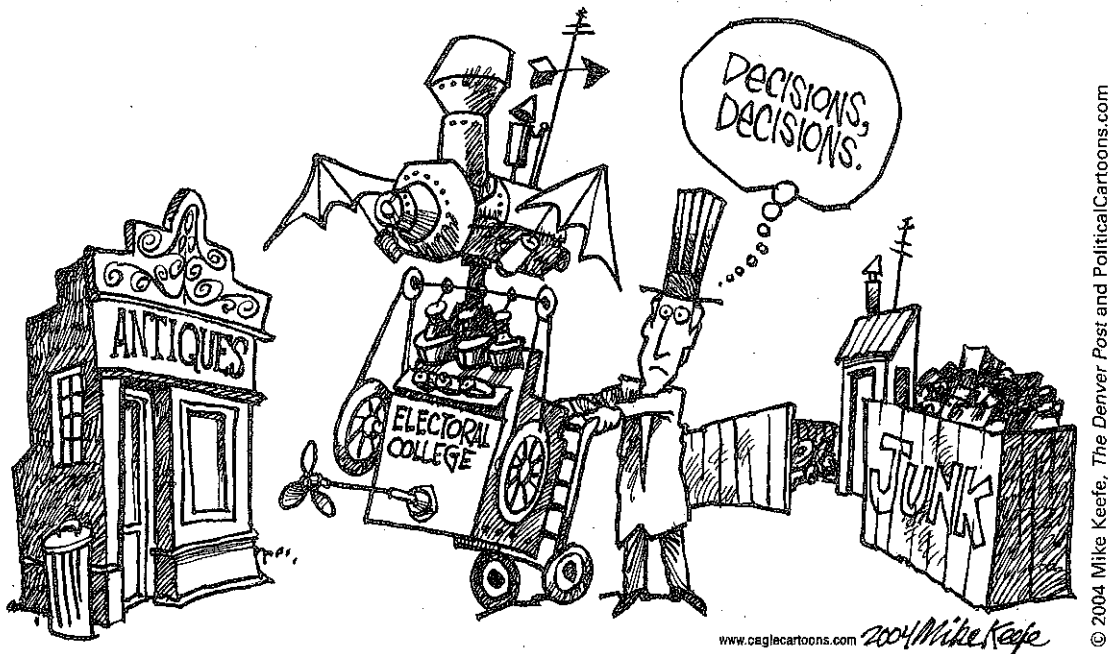
Use this chart to take notes about the election system you have been assigned. Once you are in your new group, add the information about the other election systems. Then answer the question at the bottom of the worksheet.

Election Systems		
Name	Brief Description	Advantages/Disadvantages
Current electoral college		Advantages: Disadvantages:
District plan		Advantages: Disadvantages:
Proportional plan		Advantages: Disadvantages:
Direct popular election		Advantages: Disadvantages:
National popular vote		Advantages: Disadvantages:

What system does your group think is the best method of selecting the President?
 Explain. _____

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SECTION 5**SKILLS WORKSHEET****Analyze Political Cartoons****3**

Political cartoons express the cartoonist's opinion on a recent issue or current event. Often the artist's purpose is to influence the opinion of the reader about political leaders, government policies, or economic and political issues. Study the cartoon below. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.

**Apply the Skill**

- 1. Identify the Symbols in the Cartoon**
Explain the meaning of the images and symbols in the cartoon. What is represented by the person wearing the tall hat? What is represented by the machine he is pushing?
- 2. Analyze the Meaning of the Cartoon**
What is the difference between an antique and a piece of junk? What is the person in the cartoon trying to decide? What is the main point of the cartoon?

- 3. Draw Conclusions About the Cartoonist's Intent** How would you describe the way the cartoonist drew the "electoral college" machine? What does this tell you about the cartoonist's opinion of the electoral college? What do you think the cartoonist would decide to do with the electoral college machine?

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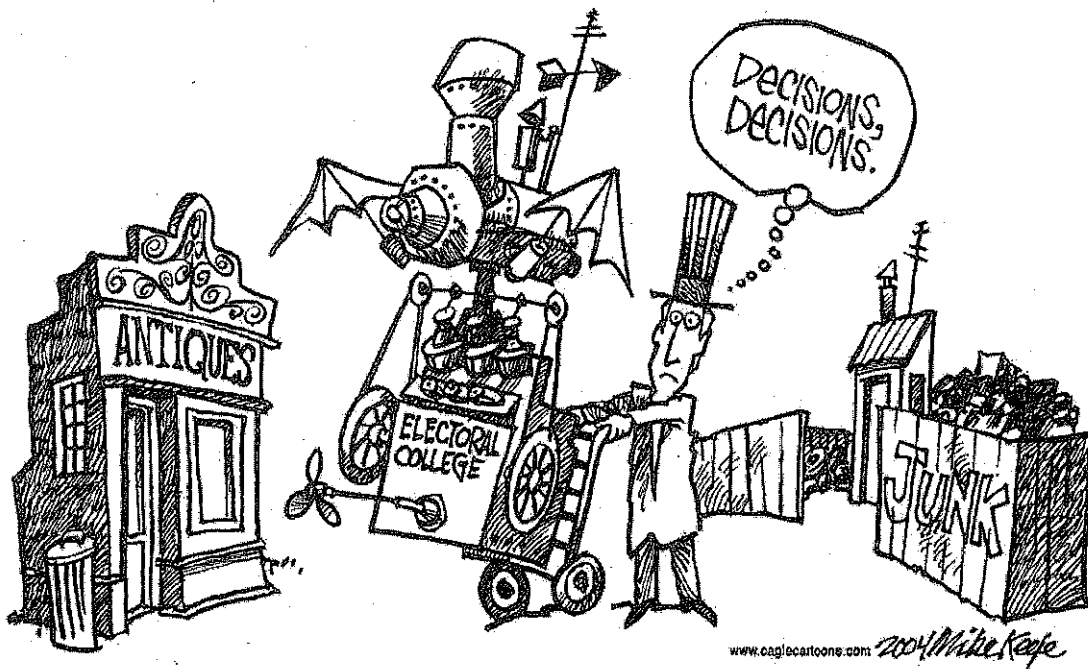
SECTION 5

SKILL ACTIVITY

Analyze Political Cartoons

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Cartoonists frequently communicate their opinions on political issues through their art. Often the cartoonist is trying to influence public opinion. Political cartoons may express an opinion about political leaders, government policies, or economic and political issues. Look closely at the cartoon below. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.

**Apply the Skill**

- 1. Identify the Symbols in the Cartoon** (a) The person in the tall hat is Uncle Sam. What does Uncle Sam represent? (b) Uncle Sam is pushing a machine. What does the machine represent?
- 2. Analyze the Meaning of the Cartoon** Uncle Sam can make one of two choices. (a) Describe the two choices Uncle Sam can make. (b) Is either choice better than the other? Explain.
- 3. Draw Conclusions** Look closely at the drawing of the "electoral college" machine. (a) Describe the electoral college machine. (b) What message does the image of the machine communicate? (c) What does the cartoonist seem to recommend for the future of the electoral college?