

The Electoral College High School Web Quest -- 34 points

Directions:

1. Explore the following web site: <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/9-12/index.html>
2. Click on the grades 9-12 icon at the top of the page.
3. Click on "Election Process".
4. Click on "President & Vice President".
5. Read the selection and answer the questions below:
 - What document sets the requirements to be President and Vice President? *U.S. Constitution*
 - What factors can influence who may become a party's candidate? List at least 3. {3 points}
public perception, media, public opinion polls, candidate preference surveys, advertising
 - The people who cast votes for who represent a political party at a national convention are called:
delegates
 - What does one need to be selected the nominee of the party at the national convention?
Majority of delegates' votes
 - Click the forward arrow...
 - What do independent candidates need to collect to run for the presidency? *Signatures on petitions*
 - What techniques do candidates and parties use to campaign? (List three) {3 points} *media advertising, direct mailings, telephone campaigns, others*
 - Click on the forward arrow...
 - Define Electoral College. {2 points} *method of direct popular election of the president*
 - When does the Electoral College meet? *1st Monday after the 2nd Wednesday in December*

- Electors who vote for someone other than the candidate for whom they were pledged to are known as: *“unfaithful” or “faithless”*
- Which states allow their electoral votes to be split? {2 points} Maine and Nebraska
- How many total electoral votes are there currently? **538**
- Can that change? Why or why not? {2 points} *Yes, if states are added then the number will increase or it could change by law (Congressional action)*
- Currently, how many electoral votes must a candidate win to become President or Vice President? **270**
- If no one gets the needed number of votes, then what happens? {2 points} *The House of Representatives will elect the President and the Senate will elect the VP.*

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. Why are there separate votes in the Electoral College for President and Vice President? {2 points} *Need separate ballots to ensure that two candidates do not get the same amount of votes, as has happened in the past.*
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Electoral College by listing two positive and two negative aspects of this system. Explain your rationale. {4 points} **ANS.MAY VARY**
3. Explain one way you could change the Electoral College. {2 points} **ANS. MAY VARY**
4. Should the United States change or keep this system of electing our President and Vice President? Explain your rationale. {4 points} **ANSWERS WILL VARY**