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?

    _____

- What factors can influence who may become a party's candidate? List at least 3. {3 points}

    _____

    _____

    _____

- The people who cast votes for who represent a political party at a national convention are called:

    _____

- What does one need to be selected the nominee of the party at the national convention?

    _____

- Click the forward arrow…

- What do independent candidates need to collect to run for the presidency? _____

- What techniques do candidates and parties use to campaign? (List three) {3 points}

    _____

    _____

- Click on the forward arrow…

- Define Electoral College. {2 points}

    _____

- When does the Electoral College meet? _____

- Electors who vote for someone other than the candidate for whom they were pledged to are know

    as: _____

- Which states allow their electoral votes to be split? {2 points}

  _____

- How many total electoral votes are there currently? _____

- Can that change? Why or why not? {2 points}

  _____

  _____

- Currently, how many electoral votes must a candidate win to become President or Vice President?

  _____

- If no one gets the needed number of votes, then what happens? {2 points}

  _____

  _____

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. Why are there separate votes in the Electoral College for President and Vice President? {2 points}

2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Electoral College by listing two positive and two negative aspects of this system. Explain your rational. {4 points}

3. Explain one way you could change the Electoral College. {2 points}

4. Should the United States change or keep this system of electing our President and Vice President? Explain your rationale. {4 points}