Name: _____

The Presidency

Warmup



Does the current electoral process result in the best candidates for President?

A. What factors make the best candidate for President? Review the qualifications of four fictional candidates for the presidency below. Circle the four you think are most important.

Candidate A

- attended a top-name college
- worked as a lawyer for 15 years
- cancer survivor

Candidate C

- was a professor of political science at a top-name university
- was most recently governor of a large East Coast State
- father of four children

Candidate B

- served three terms in the U.S. Senate
- has a business degree and was the founder of a major international company
- previously an actor

Candidate D

- served in the Persian Gulf War
- was most recently commander of American troops in Afghanistan
- lives in Montana

WI	nat is your reasoning for selecting t	that category?
	Military experience	
	Career choice	Other
	Education	Political experience
B. Based on the qualifications you chose, place an X beside the category below that you find to be the most important for a presidential candidate. Then explain your answer.		

Name:

Exploration

I. The President's Job Description

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	, Section 1, Clause 5 of the must meet to be President		•	IS
1				
2				
Why do you think	there are so few formal qu	ualifications?		

B. The candidate who wins the presidency must fulfill eight basic roles. Review the presidential roles in your print or online textbook and list them with a brief description of each in the table below. Then read all of Article II of the Constitution and cite the location where each role is mentioned. Circle the two roles you think are the most important.

Presidential Role	Description	Constitution
chief of state	ceremonial head of the U.S. government	Article II, Section 1, Clause 1
		,

III. Presidential Selection and Nomination

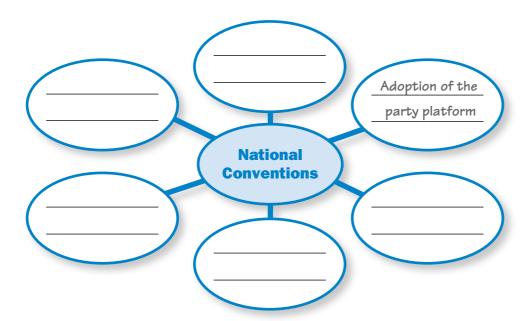
Fin	d Out
A. ⁻	To understand the American electoral system, one needs to understand the history
	behind its creation. Using your print or online textbook or other sources, review the
	original provisions the Framers made for selecting presidential electors. Then, in the space below, summarize the method as originally created by the Framers.
	space below, summanze the method as originally created by the Framers.
	The rise of political parties and the election of 1800 led to the 12th Amendment. What one significant change did this amendment make to the electoral college system?
	nat Do You Think? The Framers believed that the presidential electors would act as "free agents" in the election
C. 1	The Framers believed that the presidential electors would act as "free agents" in the election process. The election of 1800 proved that political parties greatly affected this belief. Should presidential electors cast their votes in line with a political party? Why or why not?
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Fin	The Framers believed that the presidential electors would act as "free agents" in the election process. The election of 1800 proved that political parties greatly affected this belief. Should presidential electors cast their votes in line with a political party? Why or why not? In Out What two methods do States use to select delegates to the national conventions? Circle the one that is used most commonly among the States. Indicate next to each method

Mhat Do You Think?

F. Many States today are trying to get their primaries or caucuses scheduled as early as possible. Reflect on the campaigning process at this stage of the presidential race. Do you think that the presidential election system would be improved if all the States voted on the same day or within a relatively short timeframe? Explain your reasoning.

6	Find	Out
		-

G. Both the Republican and Democratic national conventions follow the same basic schedule. Complete the concept web below with the key events that occur during these conventions.



IV. Presidential Campaign and Election

Mhat Do You Think?

A.	The media has, at times, been criticized for obvious favoritism for one candidate over	
	another. In fact, some newspapers publicize who they are backing in the race. Do you	
	think the public backing of the media and other influential sources has an effect on the	
	voting public? Why or why not?	

|--|

Find Out

B. Although most Americans think the presidential election is one event, there are actually several steps involved. Use the graphic organizer below to track the events that must occur before the President and Vice President are officially elected.

On the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, electors are chosen by popular election in every State.

C. The electoral college system has been criticized over the years, and several reforms to the system have been proposed. Using your print or online textbook, list the three major flaws of the electoral college system, below, and then indicate the system you think would be the best method for electing the President. Explain your reasoning.

Flaw 1 _____

Flaw 2

Flaw 3 _____

Mhat Do You Think?

Best Method:

D. Of all the methods available to elect a President, including the electoral college system, which one do you think is the most fair and democratic? Explain your reasoning.

Name:	

Apply What You've Learned Activity

How well did the presidential election system work for your State in the last election? Use this worksheet to answer the Apply What You've Learned questions in your print or online textbook. Conduct research on the primary/caucus results in your State for the most recent presidential election. Use the space below to record your findings.

1.	Which method of delegate selection was used?						
2. Where in the election schedule did your State's primary/caucus fall?							
	early	middle	late	Da	te:		
3.	How many o	candidates w	ere in the run	ning at the ti	me?		
	Names:						
4.	What percentage of your State's population voted in the primary/caucus?						
	Total number of primary/caucus voters:						
	Total State population:						
	Percentage of State population that voted:						
5.	What percentage of your State's population voted in the presidential election?						
	Total number of presidential election voters:						
	Total State population:						
	Percentage of State population that voted:						
6.	Did your State's electoral college vote reflect the results of its popular election?						
	A. Do you think the placement on the election schedule affected the turnout for your State's primary/caucus? Explain.						
	B. Look back at the flaws of the electoral college that you listed in Part IV.C. Do the results of your research reflect any of the issues that are considered flaws in the system? If so, list the issue and relative flaw below.						
	Election	result issue					
	Election	system flaw					

lame:	
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Essay



Does the current electoral process result in the best candidates for President?

The Constitution places few limits on the qualifications necessary to run for President. Considering the expensive and grueling process of the campaign system, is it possible that the best candidates may not actually make it through to the presidential election? As you review the perspectives below, consider to what extent the election process results in the best candidates for President.

A President needs political understanding to *run* the government, but he may be *elected* without it.

— Harry S Truman

In every election in American history both parties have their clichés. The party that has the clichés that ring true wins.

- Newt Gingrich, 1988

❷ What Do You Think?

What is your opinion? Write a response to the Essential Question, **Does the current electoral process result in the best candidates for President?** Consider your thoughts on the quotations above, the Guiding Questions in your textbook, and the activities you have done in your Journal. See page 219 for a rubric on writing an Essential Question essay.



🗫 Don't Forget

Your answer to this question will help you think about the Unit 4 Essential Question: What makes a good President?