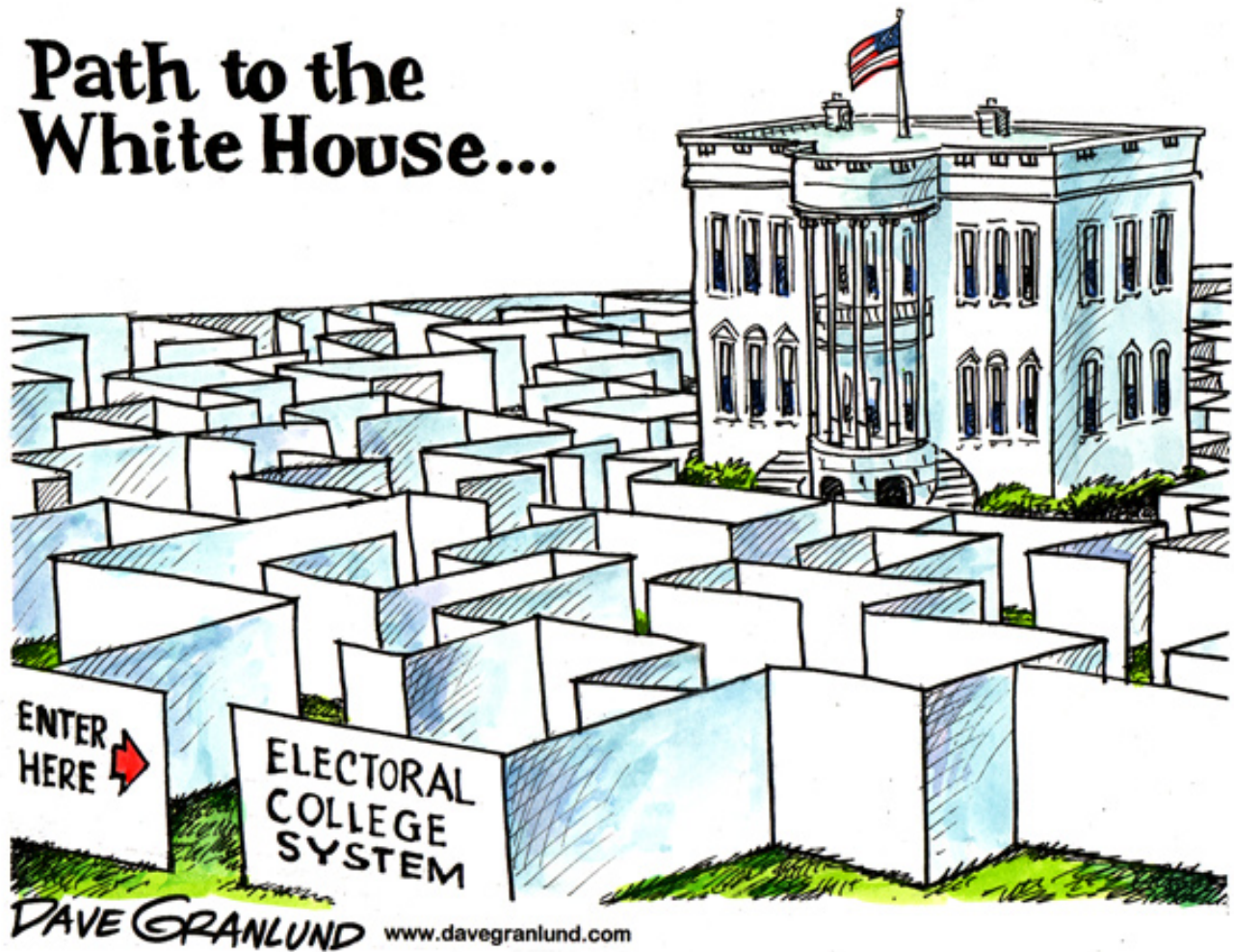


Path to the White House...



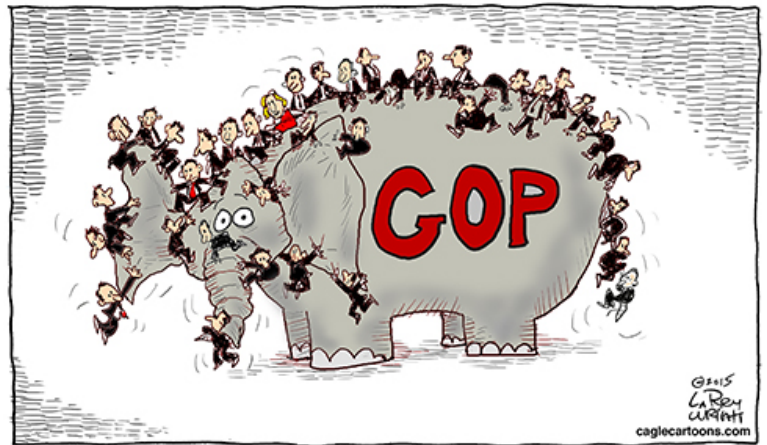
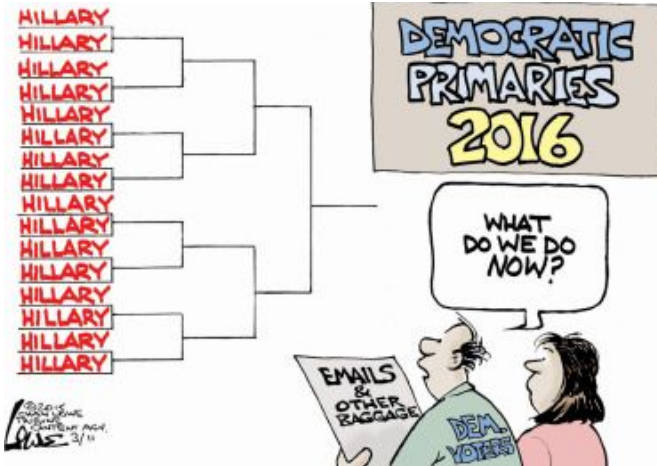
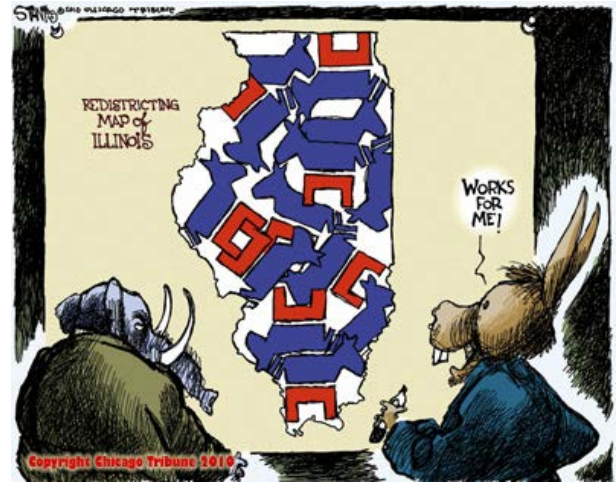
UNIT III: Elections and the Campaign Trail

Metea Valley High School Government

Unit III: Elections and the Campaign Trail

Essential Unit Questions:

1. Describe and discuss the qualities and skills Presidents' need in order to exercise leadership.
2. Explain and analyze how the Electoral College's role in electing the President.
3. Explain the process of how legislative districts are drawn in Congress and the State General Assembly.
4. Identify and describe the structures, powers, qualifications, and job responsibilities of members of Congress.
5. Explain how interest groups and PACs/SuperPacs influence the political process and elections.
6. Analyze how the campaign process influence voters and sets the political agenda for the nation.



Unit III: Elections and the Campaign Trail Learning Targets

Essential Unit Terms	I can define it and/or give an example of....	I've seen it but do not know the exact definition...	I have no idea what this term means...	Definitions and/or notes for the test:
Congress				
Constituents				
House of Representatives				
Gerrymandering				
Redistricting				
Reapportionment				
Senate				

Qualifications for Members of Congress				
Qualifications for President				
"Road to the White House"				
Primary				
Caucus				
Electoral College				
"Winner Take All"				
Campaign Finance				

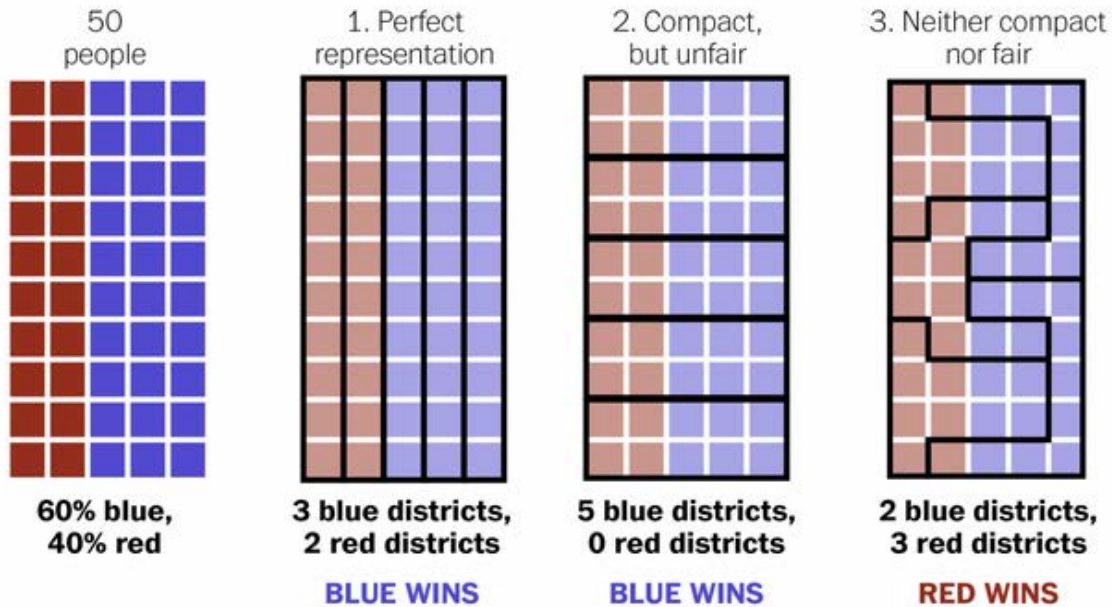
PACs				
Super PACs				
Interest Groups				
Scientific Polling				
Campaign Techniques				
Incumbent Advantage				
Valance vs. Positional Issues				
Mudslinging				
Campaign Advertising				

This is the best explanation of gerrymandering you will ever see

By Christopher Ingraham - March 1, 2015 Washington Post

Gerrymandering, explained

Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts



Gerrymandering -- drawing political boundaries to give your party a numeric advantage over an opposing party -- is a difficult process to explain. If you find the notion confusing, check out the chart above -- adapted from one posted to Reddit this weekend -- and wonder no more.

Suppose we have a very tiny state of fifty people. Thirty of them belong to the Blue Party, and 20 belong to the Red Party. And just our luck, they all live in a nice even grid with the Blues on one side of the state and the Reds on the other.

Now, let's say we need to divide this state into five districts. Each district will send one representative to the House to represent the people. Ideally, we want the representation to be proportional: if 60 percent of our residents are Blue and 40 percent are Red, those five seats should be divvied up the same way.

Fortunately, because our citizens live in a neatly ordered grid, it's easy to draw five lengthy districts -- two for the Reds, and three for the Blues. Voila! Perfectly proportional representation, just as the Founders intended. **That's grid 1 above, "perfect representation."**

Now, let's say instead that the Blue Party controls the state government, and they get to decide how the lines are drawn. Rather than draw districts vertically they draw them horizontally, so that in each district there are six Blues and four Reds. **You can see that in grid 2 above, "compact but unfair."**

With a comfortable Blue majority in this state, each district elects a blue candidate to the House. The Blues win 5 seats and the Reds don't get a single one. Oh well! All's fair in love and politics.

In the real world, the results of this latter scenario are similar to what we see in New York, though there are no good examples of where a majority party gives itself a clean-sweep. In 2012, Democrats received 66 percent of

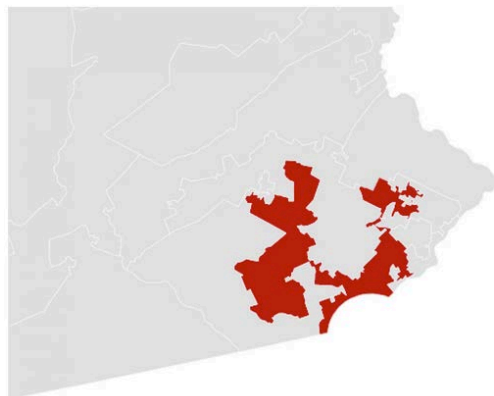
the popular House vote. But they won 21 out of 27 House seats, or three more than you'd expect from the popular vote alone. And from a purely geometric standpoint, New York's congressional districts aren't terribly irregular -- at least not compared to other states.

Finally, what if the Red Party controls the state government? The Reds know they're at a numeric disadvantage. But with some creative boundary drawing -- **the type you see in grid 3, "neither compact nor fair"** - they can slice the Blue population up such that they only get a majority in two districts. So despite making up 40 percent of the population, the Reds win 60 percent of the seats. Not bad!

In the real world, this is similar to what we see in Pennsylvania. In 2012, Democrats won 51 percent of the popular House vote. But they only won 5 out of 18 House seats -- fewer than one third. This was because when Pennsylvania Republicans redrew the state's Congressional districts, they made highly irregular districts that look like the one below, PA-7, one of the most geographically irregular districts in the nation.

Now, this exercise is of course a huge simplification. In the real world people don't live in neatly-ordered grids sorted by political party. But for real-world politicians looking to give themselves an advantage at redistricting time, the process is exactly the same, as are the results for the parties that gerrymander successfully.

The easiest way to solve this issue, of course, would be to take the redistricting process out of human hands entirely. There is already software capable of doing just that -- good luck getting any politicians to agree to it, though.



Election Q&A:



What is a primary?

It is an election by secret ballot in which voters choose a political party's candidate for office in an election. Primaries are held for most public offices, including the presidency. In a closed primary, voters must declare which party they support and can vote only in that party's primary. In an open primary, voters from any political party can participate. For the presidential race, some states have winner-take-all primaries. That means the candidate with the most votes claims all that state's delegates (see below). Other states award delegates by proportion. In a proportional primary, a candidate who won 20 percent of the vote would get 20 percent of that state's delegates.

What is a caucus?

Although most states hold primaries, caucuses are another way political parties nominate candidates for election. Caucuses are a series of meetings held across a state. At these meetings, party members discuss the candidates, and then openly vote for state delegates who represent the candidate they support. Those state delegates, in turn, choose delegates to attend the national convention, where they are expected to support the candidate whom they had pledged to support.

What is a delegate?

A delegate is a member of a political party who helps determine the party's presidential nominee. Delegates are usually longtime party members, and they vote on the nominee at the party's national convention (see below). Most of them are required to vote for a certain candidate. Their vote is determined by the result of primaries or caucuses in their home states. However, some delegates are unpledged. That means they can vote as they wish.

What is Super Tuesday?

This is a single day when many primary elections are held. First begun in 1988, Super Tuesday usually takes place on a Tuesday in March. Ten states will vote on Republican presidential nominees on that day. Super Tuesday is not the only day on which several primaries or caucuses are held. But more political contests are held on this day than on any other during primary season.

Do U.S. territories vote in the primaries?

Yes. A territory is a part of the United States that has its own government but is not considered a state. Voters in U.S. territories do hold primaries and caucuses to help select the party nominees for President. But because territories are not states, their citizens do not get to vote for the President in the general election. These include American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

What happens at a political party's national convention?

Each major party holds a national convention after the primaries and caucuses. Republicans will choose their presidential candidate there, based on the results of the primaries and caucuses. They will also choose a vice presidential candidate.

What happens after the conventions?

The two major candidates will launch their campaigns. Both sides will make speeches, run ads, and take part in televised debates. The general election date for 2016 is Tuesday, Nov. 8th.

“I’ll be the President”

Yeah, yo, when you cast that next _____ you should
vote for me,
'Cause I'mma be the next president.

I'll be the president, boss of bosses,
In the White House, Oval Office.
F-L-Y in Air Force One,
Gonna be the president, but first I gotta run. (refrain)

If you want to run for the presidency,
You're gonna need a lot of cheese and you're gonna need
to be _____ years old, _____-born.

How do I know? The _____ says so.
Talk it over with your fam, make your decision,
Then make the announcement if you have the ambition.
Hook up with a _____, they'll help you _____,
They're like a team, and that can go a long way.

And your party is a quick way to know where you stand,
_____.

To get your party's approval, you will
Have to win a _____ election, man that's brutal.
Each state votes at different times,
So you'll be kissing babies at the local fish fry.
You'll be traveling from state to state,
Doing _____ and having _____.

One by one, knocking your opponents out the race,
Digging up dirt to expose their past mistakes.
Primaries go from _____ to June,
And if you get the most votes, then pretty soon
Your party will call you the _____,
Now it's time for to pick your _____.
The wannabe _____, your running mate,
Somebody with appeal, pick the right candidate.

Refrain

So you've been nominated at the _____

Now we head into the _____ election.
It's the fall and there are more _____,
Do you know your foreign policy? Get it straight.
Pick issues you can treadmill, I mean run on,
Start you're rallies bumping a song.
Make sure you've got flags — people love flags,
And make sure your pockets stay fat.

Ask supporters for _____ to run the ads,
Be a gladiator, stay on the attack.
You're gonna pay attention everyday,
To the _____ states that could swing either way.
First _____ in November, election day,
Everybody casts their votes, OK.
But it's not a _____ vote, I acknowledge,
It's a weird thing: the _____.

States gets a number of electoral votes,
That equals their members of Congress, woah.
So some votes carry more weight,
For that reason, some wish it would go away.
Anyway, that night, we gaze at screens,
Trying to figure out what the numbers mean.
Get the most electoral votes,
And you'll be the next President who'll be bringing us
hope.

The loser will have to concede,
But if there's no majority, let's see.
It'll be decided by the _____,
That hasn't happened in a while, yeah, I bet.
You won, but you're not the president yet,
You need to wait until _____ 20th.
You'll be sworn in, and then you just may
Be the next president of the USA.

Word Bank

35	Nominee
Party	Vice President
You could be a Democrat or a Republican	January
Having debates	Convention
Ballot	Cash
Primary	Electoral College
American	Swing
Constitution	Tuesday
Fundraise	Popular
TV spots	General
January	House of Reps.
Nominee	Running mate
Debates	

