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<http://c-spanclassroomdeliberations.org/issues/should-the-electoral-college-be-reformed/>

Username: students Password: C-SPANCLASSROOM

***Should the Electoral College Be Reformed?***

1. First, define these terms and phrases before reading the background article or using the videos from C-SPAN Classroom Deliberations. Try searching Google or a dictionary for a definition.
2. Finally, use these words in your deliberations and writing activities after you understand all sides of the issue.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Term | Definition  |
| Electoral College |  |
| National Popular Vote |  |
| Winner-take-all |  |
| District method |  |
| Proportional Method |  |
| Direct democracy |  |
| Elector |  |
| Reserved power |  |
| Expressed power |  |
| Faithless elector |  |

**Background Video Questions**

***Should the Electoral College Be Reformed?***

Answer the following questions as you view the video, “[**History of the Electoral College**](https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4631963/electoral-college)**”**

1. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College outlined?
2. How are the number of electors for each state determined?
3. When and how did Washington, D.C. receive representation in the Electoral College?
4. Why did the Framers decide that the Electoral College was the best system to elect a president?
5. What happens if no candidate wins a majority of the Electoral College?
6. What was the final change made to the Electoral College? Why was this change seen as necessary?

Answer the following questions as you view the video, “[**Historical Role of the Electoral College**](https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4639915/historical-role-electoral-college)**”**

1. Explain how the Founders envisioned the Electoral College operating? How long did this system last.
2. Describe how the current Electoral College system differs from its original purpose.
3. How did the 12th amendment and two-party system affect the system?

Answer the following questions as you view the video, “[**Examples of Different Electoral College and Popular Vote Results**](https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4630121/historical-examples-divergence-winner-popular-vote-vs-electoral-college-vote)**.”**

1. Describe the controversy and outcome of the presidential election of 2000.
2. Describe the results of each of the following presidential elections:

1824:

1876:

1888:

**Background Article Questions**

***Should the Electoral College Be Reformed?***

Answer the following questions as you read the article, “[**Why on earth do we even have an electoral college anyway**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/11/08/wait-why-do-we-even-have-an-electoral-college/)**?”**

1. How did the Framers decide upon the Electoral College?

2. What were some of the other suggestions as to how the presidential election should be decided?

3. What are the six characteristics of the Electoral College listed in the article?

4. What adjustments have been made to the Electoral College since its adoption in 1787?

Answer the following questions as you read the article, “[**How Does the Electoral College Work**](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/09/us/politics/how-does-the-electoral-college-work.html)**?”**

1. What is the Electoral College?

2. How many electoral votes does it take to win the presidency?

3. Has an elector ever ‘gone rogue’ or broken his or her promise? Would that be legal?

4. How many electoral votes does each state have?

5. Do all of a state’s electoral votes go to one candidate?

6. Has anyone ever won the electoral vote while losing the popular vote?

**Note-taking Chart**

Deliberation Question: ***Should the Electoral College Be Reformed?***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Support the Electoral College** | **Oppose the Electoral College** |
| Source:Quote: Summary: | Source:Quote: Summary: |
| Source:Quote: Summary: | Source:Quote: Summary: |
| Source:Quote: Summary: | Source:Quote: Summary: |