

Discussion questions

Has gerrymandering gotten worse?

Crash Course: Big Questions on US Government • Episode 7

1. The video shows some states now have far fewer competitive districts than they used to. Do competitive elections matter for democracy, even when a district's "natural" makeup makes them unlikely?
2. If you were asked to draw your state's congressional map, what should matter more: geography, communities of interest, or partisan fairness? Why?
3. The video notes that gerrymandering is legal in most cases, just not based on race. Does that legal line make sense to you?
4. Would you support an independent redistricting commission instead of letting state legislatures draw the maps? What would be gained or lost?
5. Do you think a district you've lived in was gerrymandered? What made you suspect that, or why had you never thought about it before?