

AP U.S. Government and Politics

10.3.12

Ms. Blatteau

UNIT 1: Constitutional Underpinnings of the United States Government

Session #8: Electoral College, Debates, and Federalism

Memo: Welcome to Wednesday. Please tune into the Presidential Debate this evening. You can watch the debate on any major network TV channel. I will watch on PBS; a lot less advertisements and distractions. I also just read that Youtube will stream the debates live; accessible by phone, computer or tablet. In addition to watching and connecting, be sure to follow up with news commentary in the days after the debate. We are at a point now when each AP Gov student should read a reputable news site for at least 30 minutes once a day: New York Times, PBS Newshour, Wall Street Journal, NPR Politics. Keep a log of ideas, vocab, questions on a Google Doc. Be sure you note the date of your entry.

CURRENT EVENTS: Electoral College 101

30 minutes

Part One: Fun with Political Cartoons

Focus on the top two cartoon on the back cover of Upfront. Your task is to figure out the thesis or opinion of each of the artists. You can do this by following these instructions:

1. Describe what you see in the cartoon. Be specific. Do not assign meaning yet. Just describe what you see.
2. Review your answers for #1. Choose three of the most significant things you see in the cartoon and explain what you think each part of the cartoon represents.
3. What hot-button issue(s) do you think this cartoon is addressing?
3. Review your notes and write down what you think about the artist's opinion on the issue. What is the thesis of this political cartoon?

Part Two: Election 2012 Article by Patricia Smith (pages 14-15)

Before you read, review the guiding questions on the other side of this lesson plan. Then, look closely at the map. After you read, write your answers on a separate piece of paper.

1. What is the history of the Electoral College? How, why and when did it begin?
2. Why is 270 the magic number?
3. How is the number of electors determined for each state?
4. Based on our number of electoral votes, determine how many seats Connecticut has in the House of Representatives. (You can figure this out.)
5. Why are people currently opposed to the Electoral College?

Ratification, Federalists and Anti-Federalists

25 minutes

The Context

The Constitution changed rules for ratification or approval of the new document:

- 9 states needed to ratify; instead of unanimous approval
- State conventions would decide; instead of the state legislatures
- What impact do these changes have on states' rights?

National debate:

- Lasted nine months
- Intense scrutiny of document in many states
- Anti-federalists had concerns:
 - The role of the president
 - Power shift from states to federal government
 - Lack of specific civil liberties
 - They feared the national government would become tyrannical

The Questions

- If this was the organized responses of Patrick Henry and other anti-federalists, what was the response of James Madison and the Federalists?
- What do you think their argument was?

The Preview: On Friday, we will read the intro paragraphs of James Madison *Federalist #10*. Before we read, think about how and why Madison convinced Americans.

Closing: Folder Review & Debate-Homework Preview & Quick Quiz

30 minutes

FOLDER REVIEW & DEBATE-HOMEWORK PREVIEW & QUICK QUIZ

1. Short-term goal with folders:

- Review the contents. Group and clip similar work together.
 - Summer Work
 - Learning Logs
 - Classwork
 - Quizzes
 - Homework
- Choose one of your written assignments that you would like feedback on and put that one assignment on the top of the pile. Write a post-it note and indicate why you want to share it.

2. Debate-Homework Preview and Instructions

- Part One: Use the article from the following link and answer the questions on the handout.
- Part Two: Pay close attention during the debate and complete the graphic organizer about the questions asked and the issues discussed.

3. Quick Quiz: Answer the three questions on the board on an index card.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- There will be a Conflict and Compromise/Constitutional Convention review session after school on Friday, October 5 from 12:45-2:00. If you are unclear about these important concepts, please plan on staying for peer-to-peer support. We will work in Room 204. Encourage your classmates to stay.
- Our Unit One Test on the Constitutional Underpinnings of U.S. Government will be on Friday, October 12. Please begin reviewing your vocabulary, textbook, class notes and handout/readings. Feel free to email me with questions or concerns.
- Our first Saturday Session will take place on Saturday, November 3, 2012. This is the Saturday before the election! A perfect time to meet and make our final predictions for electoral votes, Congressional elections and overall turnout and tone.

Welcome. We have a busy week ahead of us, so let's check it out. Today, we will continue with conflict, compromise and ratification. Wednesday we will pick up with Federalism, the *Fe*

- Majority rule vs. minority rights
- Large states vs. small states
- Legislative power vs. executive power
- National power vs. state and local power
- Slave states vs. non slave states