
READ ALL ABOUT IT: EDITORIAL PAGE ON THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

OVERVIEW

Students will examine the advantages and disadvantages of the electoral college by creating editorial pages. They will also learn the format and purpose of editorial pages.

PROCEDURE

1. Organize students into groups of four or five.
2. Explain to students that they will create an editorial page of a newspaper, with the subject matter of the page being the electoral college.
3. Distribute the handout “Editorial Page Layout.” Make sure students understand the format of an editorial page. You might also bring or have students bring sample editorial pages from the local newspaper.
4. Have students research the history of the electoral college—its advantages and disadvantages, if any, and the reasons why it remains the method for formally electing the United States president and vice president.
5. Encourage students to type their articles to make the editorial page look as much like an actual editorial page as possible. The students’ editorial pages should be filled completely. Suggest that students use crossword puzzles or word scrambles on presidential elections as fillers if needed.
6. When the project is complete, post editorial pages in the classroom and allow other groups to read and critique the work.

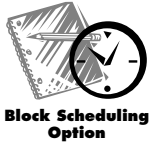
REFERENCES

Adapted from a strategy developed by Kaye Held, Carroll High School, Southlake, Texas, and Janie Worst, Turner High School, Carrollton, Texas.

SIMULATIONS AND CASE STUDIES

PLANNING

- Time recommended: 90 minutes, plus approximately one week outside preparation time



OBJECTIVES

- Recognize the format and purpose of editorial pages
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of the electoral college
- Develop critical thinking skills

MATERIALS

- Student Handout: “Editorial Page Layout”
- Sample editorial pages from a local newspaper

EDITORIAL PAGE LAYOUT

(Name of Newspaper)

<p>History of the Electoral College (This area should contain an informative paragraph that summarizes the history of the electoral college.)</p>	<p>Political Cartoon (This area should contain an editorial cartoon that clearly illustrates one of the points of view on this page.)</p>	<p>“Con” Side Editorial (This area should contain an editorial in which the major points are <i>against</i> the electoral college. It should be a persuasive paragraph.)</p>
	<p>“Pro” Side Editorial (This area should contain an editorial in which the major points are in <i>favor</i> of the electoral college. It should be a persuasive paragraph.)</p>	
<p>Letters to the Editor (This section should contain at least two letters to the editor, one supporting the electoral college and one opposing it.)</p>	<p>Public Opinion Poll (This section should contain the results of a public opinion poll about the electoral college. At least five people should be polled, three of whom must be adults.)</p>	
<p>Publisher Information (Names of students in your group)</p>	<p>Quotelines (From your research, find quotations from prominent people for and against the issue.)</p>	