

Election 2008: Watching the Swing States (due: Wed. 11/05)

Video Notes

Watch the Video “Electing a US President in Plain English” (<http://www.commoncraft.com/election>), and then answer the following questions.

1. To determine the number of electors a state gets, two numbers are added together. What are those two numbers (the number of districts, cities, buildings, mayors, governors, etc)? Refer to a specific state and explain how many votes it has.

2. How many total electoral votes are available in the United States?

3. What is the minimum number of votes needed to win the Presidential election?

2004 Swing States

A *Swing State* (also known as a *Battleground State*) is a state that has no clear candidate leading in the polls, so either the Democratic or the Republican nominee has a good chance of winning the state.

Look at the 2004 election results (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing_state) and recent polls (<http://www.270towin.com/>), then list swing states that you think will be important in the 2008 election.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1) _____ | 4) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 5) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 6) _____ |

2004 Election Results

Look at the results of the 2004 Presidential election (Bush vs. Kerry) and identify states that were important victories for each candidate.

Important States that Voted for Kerry		Important States that Voted for Bush	
State Name	# of Votes	State Name	# of Votes

Election 2008 States to Watch

Create a list of 10 states to watch during Tuesday's election coverage. Complete the first three columns before watching election coverage on Tuesday.

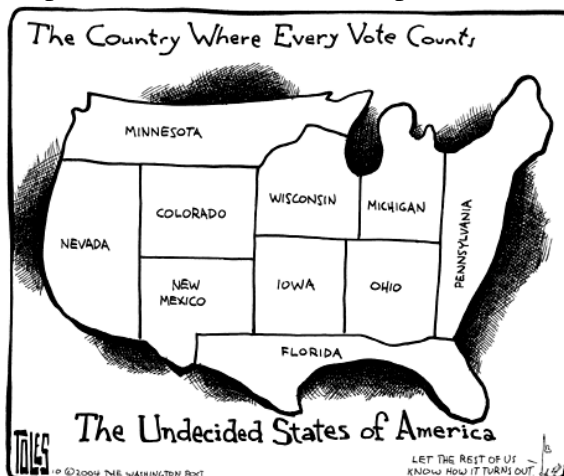
State	Number of Electoral Votes	Your Predicted Winner	Actual Winner
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

2008 Election Prediction

Explain who you think will win the 2008 Presidential Election? Give three reasons to support your answer.

Challenge (Optional for Periods 3-6, Required for Period 2 Spectrum)

Explain what the artist of this political cartoon is saying about elections in the United States.



Toles, Tom. "The Country Where Every Vote Counts." The Washington Post.com. <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>>. 10 October 2004.