

1. Why E.C. established?

- Small states represented
- Compromise between Congress and popular vote

2. How and when are electors chosen?

- Chosen by political parties
- Appointed on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November
- Electors are appointed by statewide popular election

3. How is each state's allotments of electors determined?

- Number of Senators + the number of Representatives (at least 3)
- Population size determines the number of electors

4. Where and when do the electors meet to vote?

- They meet on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December.
- They meet in their own states, in their state capital.

5. When does the Congress meet to conduct an official tally of electoral votes?

-They meet in early January, around January 6th.

6. In the eighth grade, how many electors?

-Possibly 3 – two Senators + 1 Representative

-Talk about population size of eighth grade being small

Pros and Cons of the Electoral College

PROS →

The Electoral College

-Joins the country together because it needs all parts of the country to support a person to be elected; in other words, high population areas won't unfairly influence the vote.

-Minority interests are better represented (ie: Hispanics) Their vote counts more. Why? They tend to live in the urban, more populated areas, so they carry more weight than they would without the E.C.

-It encourages a two-party system; it keeps extremists from getting elected; all electoral votes go to a candidate.

-Maintains representation in government; if you have a vote you have a say.

CONS →

-They (people who oppose E.C.) don't like the fact that winner takes all; shuts out the third party candidates; person who gets majority of popular votes gets all the electoral votes (this is not good in close elections)

-Restricts your choices of candidates.

-It doesn't reflect popular will; popular vote votes for one candidate but the E.C. votes for another candidate

-Person who wins the popular vote might not win the electoral vote.

-Faithless Electors – This means an elector who is pledged to vote for one candidate actually votes for another; there are a few states where the elector does not have to vote for the popular vote.

-People think it depresses voter turnout. Fewer people will vote because they don't think their vote will count.

