

**THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE**  
**Class Debate**  
**AP Gov/Ms. Strong**

**Directions**

The United States is the only country that employs the use of an electoral college, composed of electors from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, to indirectly elect the chief executive. This activity requires you to consider the benefits and drawbacks of the U.S. Electoral College. You will use the Electoral College reading, your notes, and any relevant outside information to prepare you for the open forum. The class will be divided into two large teams, pro and con, to prepare for and then debate the following sides:

**Side A: The Electoral College is a necessary and fair way of electing a president.**

**Versus**

**Side B: The Electoral College is outdated and needs to be reformed or eliminated.**

**Open Forum**

Each student will be assigned to one side of the argument: in favor of the Electoral College system or against it. You personal feelings about this topic are irrelevant for the purpose of this activity!!!!

- I. Preparation Stage (5 minutes) – The class will be divided into both large pro or con teams, and subgroups with that. Each small group will brainstorm as many arguments as possible to support its position. The group will then choose a leader who will argue the group’s case in the formal debate.
- II. Opening Statements (3-4 minutes/team) – Each group presents its side and supporting arguments.
- III. Rebuttal (open to the whole class) – The debate is then opened up to all participants with the following ground rules:
  - A.No person may speak twice until everyone has spoken once.
  - B.Sides will alternate comments (if pro person speaks a con person must go next).
  - C. The speaker will choose the next person.

**Assessment**

At the end of class, each student will be given a grade based on the quality of her/his participation in the open forum using the rubric below:

Assessment Points:

- 1 point = Homework: Pro-side – includes FIVE separate points with details and/or examples
- 1 point = Homework: Con-side – includes FIVE separate points with details and/or examples
- 1 point = Oral Argument - includes a general statement(s) with little or no relevant examples and supporting evidence from the article
- 2 points = Oral Argument - includes clear statement(s) with relevant examples and supporting evidence from the article
- 1 point = Rebuttal – makes relevant and appropriate statement rebutting other side’s argument

**Make-Up Assignment**

Students who were absent from class are required to write a brief essay arguing either the pro or con side of the Electoral College debate. Be sure to include at least THREE major points in your argument supported by facts and examples.