**Electoral College:**

* group of persons chosen in each State and the District of Columbia every four years who make a formal selection of the President and Vice President
* there is an electoral college for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ candidate on the ballot
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ elector for each senator and representative
* Framers expected the Electors to use their own judgment in selecting the president
* now Electors vote for their party
* felt the average citizens were not enlightened enough to select the president- educated, informed

**Who are the electors?**

* electors cannot be members of Congress or employed by the Federal Government
* chosen by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ parties
* Currently in Arizona we have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Electors (2 senators and 9 representatives)

**Electoral College Continued:**

* The 23rd Amendment (1961) gave the District of Columbia electoral college votes
  + the same number of electors as the least populous State
  + Washington DC has 3 electoral college votes

**How it works**

**Step one:**

* electors are chosen in every state on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day
  + you do not actually vote for president, you vote for electors
  + the candidate that wins the popular vote in the state wins the electoral college vote

**Step two:**

* electors, from winning party, meet at state capital on the Monday after the second Wednesday in December
* formally cast their vote, sign, seal and send to Washington DC
  + one for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + one for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ President

**Step three:**

* The votes are officially counted on January 6th before a joint session of Congress
* President of the Senate opens and reads each vote
* The candidate that receives at least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of 538 electoral college votes wins

**First Major Defect:**

* The candidate that wins the popular vote does not always win the Electoral College vote
* 2000 election
  + Gore 49,357,039 (49%)
  + Bush 47,152,250 (48%)
  + Gore 267 electoral college votes
  + Bush 271 electoral college votes

**Second Major Defect:**

* members of the Electoral College are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to vote with the popular vote
* They are expected to as loyal members of their party
* “faithless elector” has never had a bearing on the election

**Third Major Defect:**

* if a candidate does not receive a majority of the electoral college votes then the election goes to the House of Representatives
* each state has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ vote at this time (regardless of whether they have 1 or 52 representatives)

**Suggestions about CHANGING the Electoral College:**

**District Plan:**

* electors would be chosen in each state the same way as members of Congress
  + two chosen at large and would cast vote along with popular vote
  + other electors would be chosen from each congressional district and would vote with the popular vote from that district

**Proportional Plan:**

* each presidential candidate would receive the same share of a state’s electoral votes as he or she received in the state’s popular vote
  + Arizona = 11 votes
    - 50% to candidate 1 = 5 votes
    - 50% to candidate 2 = 6 votes

**Direct Popular Election:**

* do away with the electoral college
* candidate that wins the popular vote in the country would win the election