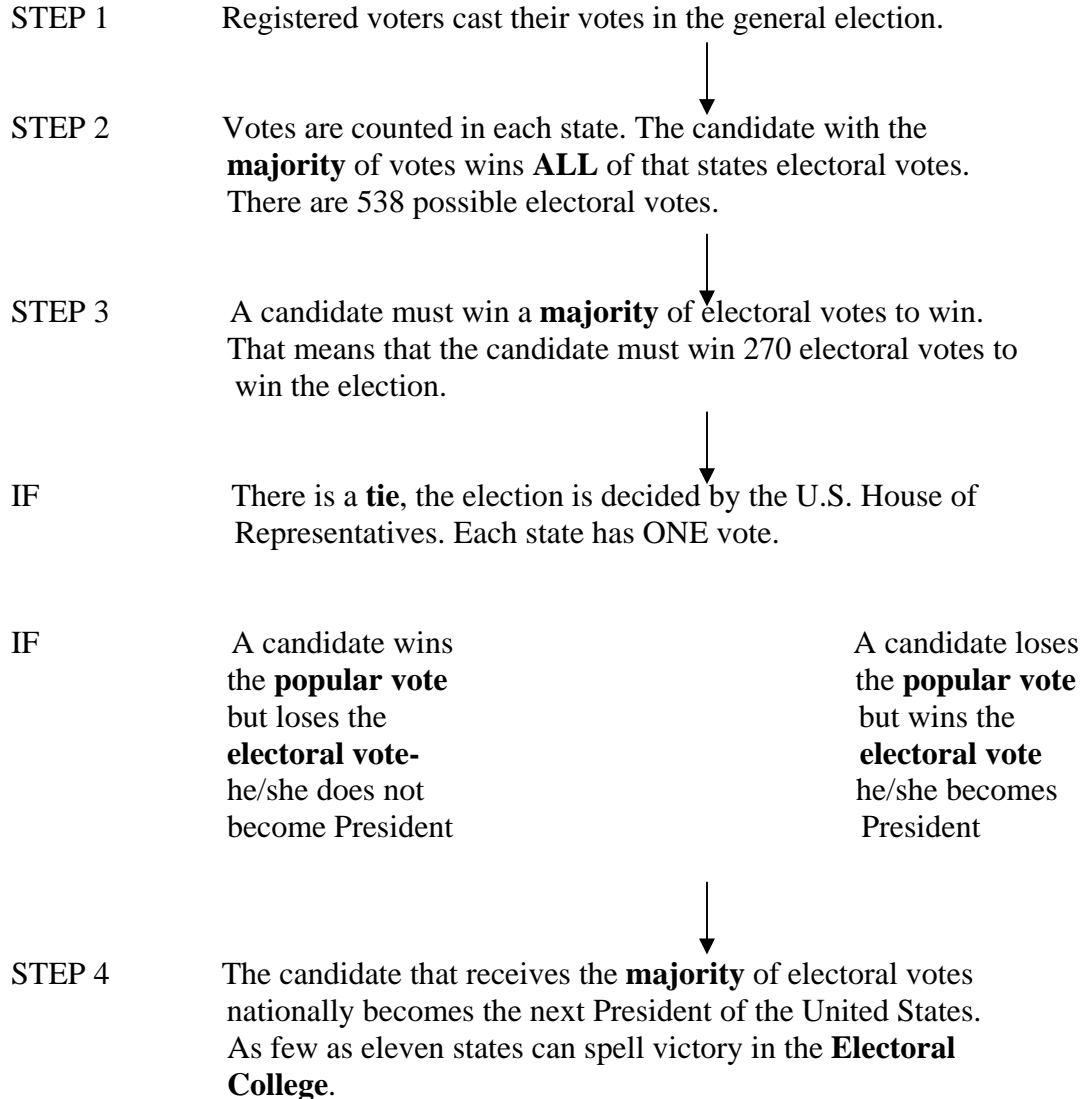




FORM B

HOW THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE WORKS

STEPS TO BECOMING A PRESIDENT



Guide Questions:

- What is meant by the term **popular vote**?
- How many **electoral** votes are there in a presidential election? How many do you have to win to claim a **majority**?
- If a candidate claims eighty percent of the **popular vote** in a state then how many **electoral votes** will he/she receive?
- What happens if no candidate wins a **majority** of electoral votes?



CONTROVERSIAL ELECTIONS

Elections of: 1800, 1824, 1876, 1888, 2000

Answer the questions after each election using the information provided, your book (ch. 8, sec. 2), and any other source you want.

The **winner** of each election is bolded!

<u>ELECTION</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>PARTY AFFILIATION</u>	<u>VOTES:</u>	
			<u>ELECTORAL AND POPULAR</u>	
1800	Thomas Jefferson	Democratic-Republican	73	no record
	Aaron Burr	Democratic-Republican	73	no record
	John Adams	Federalist	65	no record
	Charles C. Pickney	Federalist	64	no record
	John Jay	Federalist	1	no record
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Problem with the ballot: when electors in the College voted, none specified whether their vote was for president or vice president. Jefferson and Burr received the same number of electoral votes! ◇ RESULT: 12th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution written, specifying that electors were to vote on <i>separate</i> ballots for president and vice president. 			

Guide Questions:

1. Between Jefferson and Burr, who won the popular vote? (At that time the electoral vote was the popular vote)
2. Why was it necessary to pass a new Amendment after this election?

<u>ELECTION</u>	<u>CANDIDATES</u>	<u>PARTY AFFILIATION</u>	<u>VOTES:</u>	
			<u>ELECTORAL AND POPULAR</u>	
1824	Andrew Jackson	Unknown	99	151,271 (41.3%)
	John Quincy Adams	Democratic-Republican	84	113,122(30.9%)
	William H. Crawford	Unknown	41	47,531 (11.1%)
	Henry Clay	Unknown	37	40,856 (12.9%)
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Andrew Jackson received a plurality (41.3%) of the popular vote, and of the electoral vote (99 out of 261) but not a majority of either. ◇ Henry Clay, the candidate in 4th place, was also the Speaker of the House, a powerful position, and was able to persuade other members of the House on how to vote! ◇ After the vote in the House of Representatives, John Quincy Adams won even though he had <u>lost</u> the popular vote (30.9%) AND the electoral vote (84)! 			
<i>“The Corrupt Bargain”</i>				

Guide Questions

1. Which candidate received a majority of either the popular or electoral vote? (This is a trick question!)
2. What happened as a result?
3. How did John Quincy Adams win if he won neither the electoral or popular vote?
4. What role did Henry Clay play in the election?
5. Is Jackson’s term about the election, “The Corrupt Bargain,” valid?

<u>ELECTION</u>	<u>CANDIDATES</u>	<u>PARTY AFFILIATION</u>	<u>VOTES:</u>	
			<u>ELECTORAL AND POPULAR</u>	
1876	Rutherford B. Hayes	Republican	185	4,034,311(47.9%)
	Samuel J. Tilden	Democrat	184	4,228,546(50.9%)
	Peter Cooper	Greenback	0	75,973(0.90%)
Notes “The Stolen Election”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ The Republican party challenged the returns (of votes), saying the election was not a “clean” one. - Three Southern states sent in <i>two</i> sets of returns – one from their Democrats, and one from their Republicans, which stated opposite votes. - Congress was forced to address the issue of <u>fraud</u> – what to do? ◊ Congress appointed a commission to decide the electoral vote with <i>eight</i> Republicans and <i>seven</i> Democrats. The “bargain:” If the mostly Democratic Southern states were allowed to govern themselves, and Federal troops were removed, they would accept a Republican president (Hayes). 			

Guide Questions:

1. Which candidate received a majority of both popular and electoral votes? Was he declared President?
2. What effect did the Civil War have on this election?
3. How does this election violate the “presidential formula?”

<u>ELECTION</u>	<u>CANDIDATES</u>	<u>PARTY AFFILIATION</u>	<u>VOTES:</u>	
			<u>ELECTORAL AND POPULAR</u>	
1888	Benjamin Harrison	Republican	233	5,443,892 (47.8%)
	Grover Cleveland	Democrat	168	5,534,488 (48.6%)
	Clinton Fisk	Prohibition	0	249,819 (2.20%)
	Alston Streeter	Union Labor	0	8,519 (0.07%)
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Cleveland won the popular vote 48.6% to Harrison’s 47.8%. ◊ When the electors voted, however, Harrison won the <i>larger</i> states with more electors and therefore won more electoral votes. ◊ When the Electoral College voted, Harrison received 233 votes to Cleveland’s 168, making Harrison the new president, despite the fact that Harrison had <i>lost</i> the <i>popular election</i>. 			

Guide Questions:

1. Compare Grover Cleveland’s popular vote to his electoral vote. What do you notice?
2. Grover Cleveland was the incumbent (presiding president.) In his second election, what is one way in which Cleveland could have won the popular vote in states that did not allow him to win the majority of the electoral votes?

<u>ELECTION</u>	<u>CANDIDATES</u>	<u>PARTY AFFILIATION</u>	<u>VOTES:</u>	
			<u>ELECTORAL AND POPULAR</u>	
2000	Al Gore	Democrat	266	51,003,835(48.4%)
	George Bush	Republican	271	50,460,110(47.9%)
	Ralph Nader	Green	0	2,883,064(2.73%)
	Patrick Buchanan	Reform	0	449,129(0.43%)
	Harry Browne	Libertarian	0	384,490(0.36%)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ The real election was between Al Gore and George Bush, with Ralph Nader becoming a key factor in the popular vote sector. ◊ This election was the longest election in 100 years, taking 36 extra days to confirm. 			

Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ This was the first time the Supreme Court had ever had to step in to complete an election. Florida experienced complications with their ballot returns in many counties, prompting Gore to make an unprecedented call on the U.S. Supreme Court to recount the votes in that state. ◇ Down to the wire, it soon became clear that Bush would win the popular vote in Florida (by <i>only</i> 500), and was granted Florida's 25 electoral votes! So, even though Gore won the national popular vote, the state of Florida decided the election and Bush won the presidency.
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Guide Questions

1. How many popular votes separated Al Gore and George Bush?
2. Did the Electoral College play a significant role in this election? What was the effect of the popular vote on the election?
3. Based on your answer to the previous question, could you argue that “the people really do vote directly for president of the United States?”