

FILM CLIPS OF ELECTION DAY

Directions:

Answer the following questions by piecing together your understanding of our class discussion, your own deductive reasoning, and from what you see in the film.

1. What are “Electoral Votes?”
2. If Minnesota has a total of 10 electoral votes up for grabs in the Presidential election, how are these ten allotted if 70% of Minnesota voters vote for the Democrat (Gore), and 30% vote Republican (Bush)?
3. Take the following information into consideration, as well as the correct answer to #2, and answer the question:

Throughout election day, TV stations repeatedly display a map of the U.S., and as the day progresses across the country, individual states are colored in either blue or red. Blue is the color they use for Democrats, red is for Republicans. As a state counts the ballots, and as the media takes polls from voters that are leaving the voting station in that state, and as it becomes evident which presidential candidate is going to win that state, the media will color that state either all Red or all Blue, and they may display the number of electoral votes that that state has.

WHY? Why not color the state partially red, or red and blue striped?
For example, say the media colored a state in question Blue: WHY?
After all, NOT every voter in that state voted Democrat...

4. What is the “Magic Number” (of electoral votes) that a candidate needs in order to win the Presidency?
5. Using your own *scientific* knowledge, explain why the returns are tallied (and states are colored blue or red) from east coast to west coast:
6. Taking your answer to #5 into consideration, why might some folks who live in the state of Washington feel like they shouldn’t bother to go to the polls and vote.
7. There are three or more subject areas covered in the film that show why west coast people should still get out and vote even if the Presidency has already been “called.” Name two or more reasons why a Washingtonian or a Californian should still go to the polls under a scenario where the Presidency has already been called.
Hint 1: Concerns the specter of a “mandate.”
Hint 2: If your party’s candidate has definitely lost, well, the President is not the only power in the U.S. Government. What other U.S. government seat should you be concerned with?
Hint 3: What else is going on besides the votes for who sits in the federal govt.?