

The Interim

PLUS + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + Curriculum Supplement For Schools

The *Interim Plus* is a periodical dedicated to educational matters and specifically designed to assist teachers in integrating relevant life issues in their lesson planning.

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A great year is shaping up for academics in Canada! Autumn beckons and with it comes cooler weather. Our batteries have been recharged and we look forward to another adventure in the classroom and on the fields and in gymnasia. With all the political and social turmoil, it is good to be able to concentrate on classroom activities once again.

The fall always marks a new beginning with new classes, new course, new students and renewed hope. We wish you the best for this school year and *The Interim Plus* will offer its modest help to educators in 2012-2013. In this first curriculum supplement the focus is on the American national election. What happens to America and its political leadership does have an impact on our own prospects for better or worse. It is important that students have an understanding and appreciation of the system of government practised by our southern neighbours. In this first edition there is material on their system of government. In the next edition, closer to their actual election day, there will be more on the actual campaign issues that divide and unite Americans. A crossword puzzle is a fun way to teach and test the students' knowledge of some political terms, definitions and concepts.

The latest release of the Canada 2011 Census took place on September 19. As usual the data is a real treasure trove for class discussions on how Canada and Canadians are changing. We have included classroom suggestions to go along with highlights of the data.

Please bring **The Father Ted Colleton Scholarship** program to the attention of students in your school. **The deadline for submission of the scholarship application and essay component is November 30.** This annual program is now entering its eleventh year. It is designed to encourage students to think seriously about life issues (abortion, euthanasia, stem cell research, pornography, and the many ills and pressures that plague families and society). There are three prizes awarded each year of \$1500, \$800, and \$500 respectively. Please encourage as many of your learners as possible to participate in the program. They are rewarded by the research and writing efforts that they make. Sometimes the scholarship topic of the essay may also be of use as a topic in a classroom subject.

The essay topic for 2012-2013 was inspired by an article writ-

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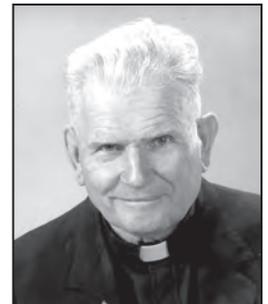
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ten by George Weigel that appeared in the December 2011 issue of *First Things* magazine. His statement was adapted to read this way:

Effective witness in the public square requires a new focus on what is important to young people. What can be done to convince young people, your peer group, that "the life issues are not only genuine social-justice issues; but they are the priority social-justice issues"?

The details for applications, eligibility rules, and the length of the original essay can be found at <http://www.theinterim.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Colleton-Scholarship-2012-13.pdf>.

A short biography of Father Ted Colleton is available at www.theinterim.com. The winners from this past year were: 1st prize Isaac Longworth, (St Mary's High School, Woodstock); 2nd prize Selina Hunt (St. Mary's College, Sault Ste. Marie); and 3rd prize Aditya Rau, (St. Roberts High School, Thornhill).



The Interim Plus touches on various subject disciplines with the aim of encouraging teachers to integrate its material into their lesson planning wherever feasible. But, a secondary purpose is to bring important events to the educator's attention with the hope that a certain enthusiasm will develop from that and that students will respond to invitations to take part in the struggle to build, affirm and expand a culture of life. One of the principal events in this regard is the annual March for Life that takes place each spring in Ottawa. On the second Thursday of May thousands converge on Parliament Hill to stand up for the unborn, disabled and dependent elderly, whose basic human rights, including their right to life, are under attack. It is a wonderful opportunity for young people to make their voices heard and their views respected. An effective way to introduce them to this opportunity is to let them watch these brief, terrific videos, available at this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcSnZw8jTTw> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6QhP1tHXU4&feature=relmfu>.

The American System of Government

The 13 colonies when they joined up to form the United States chose to establish a **republic**. They had rebelled against a perceived unjust British **monarchical** government because the latter taxed the colonials without giving them any say in the matter and then sent an armed force to put down the protesters. The governed were not asked for their consent. They were treated as subjects, not as citizens, hence their revolution.



Many argue that the revolution had been prepared intellectually by the writings of various colonists who already were agitating for a republican form of government. According to these publicists (some of whom were familiar with the writings of the French philosophes (a government should be constitutional in nature, with a written framework outlining the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of qualified citizens. Executive powers of government should be available to all citizens and not be hereditary. In short, government should be a public affair – *res publica* – something open to all, not something reserved to the few.

Most political systems have been created top-down, with first a national system of government being established and then certain powers being delegated to lower levels of government. But, in the United States the political system was created bottom-up, with individual sovereign states (all former colonies) coming together to create a federal or national government to which was given certain limited powers. This was to be the unique American experiment.

The opening of the *United States Declaration of Independence* written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, states as follows:

We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

One must take this founding statement into account in order to understand the nature of America's **Constitution** and its republican system of government: human beings are

created equal; they have certain basic human rights; they receive these rights from God, not the state. Moreover, governments exist to protect and promote those rights; and governments must enjoy the consent of the governed in order to be seen as just. And to keep government in check the drafters of the Constitution established the principle of separation of powers or checks and balances whereby there would be two main levels of government (federal or national and state or more local) and each of the three branches of the state governing apparatus (executive, legislative, judicial) has some authority to act on its own, some authority to regulate the other two branches, and has some of its own authority, in turn, regulated by the other branches.

The manner in which the new nation was created and the division of government powers engendered an ongoing debate about federalism, with some arguing for a stronger role for the federal government and others wanting to place more power at the state level. The rise of the Tea-Party in recent years reinforces the view among many Americans today that the "federal government has become too dominant, too intrusive, and too profligate" in its spending.

Another indication of distrust of government was that over time many states adopted the referendum initiative. This procedure enables a policy question to be put directly to the electorate pending the collection of a certain number of signatures or by the decision of the state legislature. Each election cycle there are such referendum choices on the state ballots. The debate on abortion and the question of gay marriage have appeared on the ballots recently.

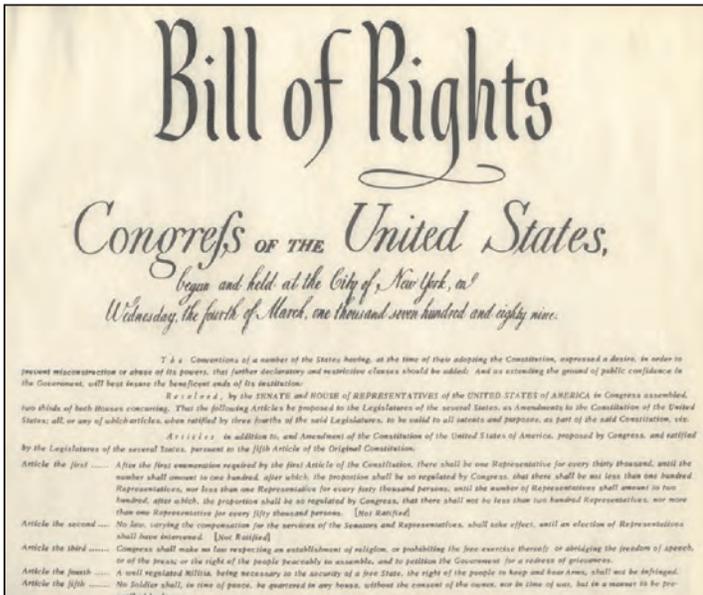
A further provision, intended to avoid rapid political change, was to give each branch of the federal government a different term of office: the President, a term of four years; the Senate, six years; and members of the House of Representatives, two years. Members of the Supreme Court were given the privilege of effectively serving for life.

The Constitution itself has proved to be a very stable document. It has served the country well, partially because its drafters made it a very difficult instrument to change. Any proposed amendment has to secure a two-thirds vote of members present in both houses of Congress and then three-quarters of the state legislatures have to ratify the proposed change.

Of course all societies change over time. New needs arise, new problems materialize, and new circumstances may call into question as to which power belongs to which branch or which level of government. It is the life-serving Supreme Court justices that are called upon to determine the constitutionality of an action or law. There continue to be two very different approaches to the interpretation of the Constitution; the two main strands of thought being known as *strict constructionists* or *originalism* (a conservative approach) and *loose constructionists* or *living/organic* Constitution (liberal approach).

From the beginning there was also a healthy distrust of government – any government. Hence, great debates ensued over states rights vs. federal powers, the passage of a Bill of

Rights, and the rights of citizens to keep and bear arms [second Amendment]. The latter was intended to drive home the point that the people should have the right to resist and defend themselves against the tyranny of any government, including their own.



The claim is often made that the freedom of the American people rests on respect for these principles that have largely fuelled the American democratic experiment. Elections can be seen as a periodic sounding of the governed to express their opinions as to who should govern them and based on what guiding principles. Elections are necessary for a peaceful struggle for power among Americans. At stake may be competing visions of America, both its past and its future. Once again, as called for in their constitution, national and state elections will be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November.

Questions

1. What is a republic? What are key principles of American “republican” government?
2. Why is the American “Declaration of Independence” such an important document?
3. How and why is the American Constitution a stable document?
4. What is meant by the “separation of powers”?
5. Why are there three branches of government at the national level?
6. How is there a checks and balance system in effect?
7. Is there still a checks and balance in effect today or is one branch more powerful than the others? If so, how and why?
8. Have students find out the differences between originalism and organic approaches to interpreting the meaning of the Constitution. Have them provide examples of each approach in action.
9. How many members are there in the House of

Representatives? How are they elected? How long is their term of office? Why is there this difference between the House and the Senate?

10. Is the United States in danger of becoming a nation ultimately ruled by its Supreme Court?
11. Why are elections so necessary in a free, representative, democratic republic?

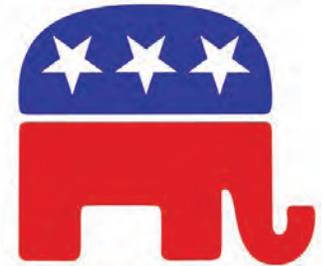
America’s Political Parties

In the early years after the thirteen colonies united to form the United States, although there were great debates over the constitution and the various arrangements concerning the division of powers, voting rights, qualifications for citizenship, rights of the people etc. there were no formal political parties competing for the executive offices in the national or state governments. However, over time, political factions began to develop as different groups and individuals vied for influence over the direction of public affairs at the state and federal levels.

Eventually, two dominant parties came into being, the Republicans and the Democrats. These are very old and very stable parties - the Democrats go back to 1824 and the Republicans were founded in 1854. The Democrat Party is sometimes represented as



a donkey, while the Republican Party is sometimes featured as an elephant. Lesser parties would be present at different times, but all would find it difficult to make any headway in the public arena.



The love of competition and service is very strong in Americans. There are elections for all sorts of offices and levels of government, teams, school councils, prom queens etc. To be elected to the House of Representatives or to the Senate in the United States, a candidate must gain a plurality, or more votes than any other candidate, but not necessarily more than 50% of the total votes cast. This is a first-past-the-post or winner-take-all system because there is no reward for the party or candidate that finishes second. As a result, two political parties usually dominate plurality electoral systems to the disadvantage of smaller third parties. Successful candidates inevitably belong to one or other of the two major parties. There are no legal restrictions that prevent third parties from forming and fielding their own candidates, but the plurality system itself usually hinders their efforts to win votes.

The Presidency

For this supplement, we are concentrating on the process for electing the chief executive in the land, namely the of-

fice of President. A person wishing to run for this high office must meet three legal qualifications in addition to the practical requirements of the task: be born in the United States or its territories (Guam, American Samoa, etc.), be at least 35 years old, and have been a citizen for 14 years.

A good overview of the American system of government can be found at <http://www.sparknotes.com/us-government-and-politics/american-government/political-parties/section2.rhtml> There is an outline of its Constitution, the separation of powers, the presidency, the three branches of government.

Even though George Washington held the office as the first President the position itself was relatively weak at the beginning. But through a variety of circumstances the power of the office has been greatly enhanced over the past century and a half. Among these factors were: the growth of the nation's power and standing in the world; the expansion of its territory through war and land purchases; the experiences of the Civil War; the growth in the federal bureaucracy and the military; the professionalization of government; modern industrialization of the economy, complexity of problems that governments have had to face.



The American President is both the head of state and the head of government, and the military commander-in-chief. The sheer size of the American federal government is enormous, employing about 5 million employees, including about 1 million active-duty military personnel.

The President has vast executive powers including waging war, and pardoning criminals. He may sign or veto legislation passed by Congress and has the power to recommend measures (bills) to Congress. The latter body may override a presidential veto but only by a two-thirds majority in each house. One of the most controversial and important of his powers is that of appointing Supreme Court justices and federal judges (subject to the consent of the Senate). This last power generates tremendous debate and is one of the principal reasons why presidential elections are so crucial.

The President may be impeached by a majority in the House and removed from office by a two-thirds majority in the



Senate for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors". Few presidents have faced the threat or

reality of impeachment procedures.

Today any politician that wants to run for the presidency would first form an exploratory committee to study the chances of winning the nomination of their party and the subsequent election. A large consideration even at this early stage is the ability or capacity to raise money for the campaign because it is a very expensive and long tortuous process to obtain the nomination of one of the two dominant political parties in the race for the White House.

The would-be candidates have to wage a campaign in each of 50 states to win the preference of their party nationally. Members of the respective parties vote in the "primaries" or in the state "caucuses" to express their preference among the multiple party candidates.

Each state may have different rules for apportioning their delegates to the parties' national convention where a candidate for the presidency is formally chosen by the gathered state delegates. In fact the Caucuses and the Primaries don't decide directly which candidate will run for office, but which candidate's delegates will vote in the party convention held usually in late August or early September of the election year. Some states apportion the number of delegates according to the percentage of votes that the various candidates obtained, for example, 35% of the popular vote in that state's primary would get that candidate some 35% of the delegates. But many states give all its delegates to the person who got the most popular votes regardless of whether that was 38%, 27% or 75%. It's winner take all. The person who gains the greatest number of delegates at the party convention becomes the official standard bearer of the party in the presidential election in November.

What is the Electoral College?

The President is not elected directly by the voters but by an Electoral College representing each state on the basis of a combination of the number of members in the Senate (two for each state regardless of size) and the number of members in the House of Representatives (roughly proportional to population). The total of the Electoral College is 538, with a majority of 270 electoral votes required to elect the President. The states with the largest number of votes are California (55), Texas (34) and New York (31). The states with



the smallest number of votes have only three votes, plus the District of Columbia, which has no voting representation in Congress, but has three electoral votes. In effect, therefore, the Presidential election is not one election but 51.

This system of election means that in theory a candidate can win the largest number of votes nationwide but fail to win the largest number of votes in the Electoral College and therefore fail to become President. In practice, this has happened three times in US history, most recently in 2000. This possibility in turn has led to efforts to reform or abolish the Electoral College system. It sounds unfair and undemocratic but the explanation is that the ‘founding fathers’ who drafted the American Constitution did not wish to give too much power to the people. They also wanted to respect the importance of individual states and their distinct identity and hence they created a system of checks and balances, a compromise, among large populous states and smaller, less populated states.

The Constitution enables each state to determine how its members in the Electoral College are chosen, and since the 1820s states have chosen their electors by a direct vote of the people. The United States is the only current example of an indirectly elected executive president. In a sense this is a dual system combining both direct voting and indirect voting. Like in the pre-election primaries most states have a “winner-take-all” system that awards all electors to the winning presidential candidate. But, two states, Maine and Nebraska each have a variation of “proportional representation.” More than one presidential candidate can receive electoral votes in those states.

The meeting of the electors takes place on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December after the presidential election. The electors meet in their respective states, where they cast their votes for President and Vice-President on separate ballots. The state’s electors’ votes are recorded on a “Certificate of Vote,” which is prepared at the meeting by the electors. The state’s Certificates of Votes are sent to the Congress where they are counted in a joint session of Congress on the 6th of January in the year following the meeting of the electors. The Vice-President, as President of the Senate, presides over the count and announces the results of the vote. The President of the Senate then declares which persons, if any, have been elected President and Vice-President of the United States.

The President-Elect takes the oath of office and is sworn in as President of the United States on January 20th in the year following the Presidential election.

Questions

1. Why do two parties dominate American politics? Why haven’t third parties made any inroads?
2. What is meant by the “first-past-the-post”? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this system?
3. Why has the power of the Presidency increased so much in the United States? Is the office too powerful or is it too demanding for any one person?

4. Compare and contrast the position and powers of the American president with that of the Canadian prime minister. Which office has greater discretion in the use of the power?
5. Have students list 10 of the most important powers of the American president and have them assess and discuss the relative importance of those powers.
6. How difficult is it to remove a president from office other than by him losing an election?
7. What are primaries? What is their role in the selection of candidates for president?
8. What is the Electoral College? How many members does it have?
9. Why are some political pundits critical of its composition and its role in the election process and want to eliminate it?

Strengths and Weaknesses

The United States has actually the longest surviving republican /constitutional government system in the world. That is not to say that it has a perfect form of government, but it does suggest stability and longevity. For a fuller consideration of the republican system of government have students assess its strengths and weaknesses by reading the article found at <http://www.preservearticles.com/2012031026102/get-complete-information-on-the-strengths-and-weaknesses-of-republicanism.html>. Among the **strengths** can be included: protection of private property rights of all individuals under Natural Law; universal suffrage; checks and balances (between federal and state governments and between the three branches of government); rule by the majority but under written rules that also protect minority rights; safeguards guaranteeing certain individual freedoms through the Bill of Rights.

With a nation as large, populous and powerful as the United States it is difficult to keep in place all the original principles on which the nation was founded and that served it so well in its first 150 years. **Weaknesses** have crept in: the government is run by political parties, rather than by rules; a two party system is entrenched, with Democrats and Republicans having a stranglehold on the electoral process, with money, tradition and the media on their side; third party candidates don’t really stand a chance nationwide; the huge cost of elections is prohibitive, limiting the range of candidates, increasing the influence of corporate interests and pressure groups; ads campaign themselves tend to be extremely negative, even if often truthful; the lack of genuine turnover in the composition of the Congress due to the practice of *Gerry-mandering* of electoral districts; voter apathy is rampant with fewer than 50% bothering to vote even in national elections when the presidency is up for grabs; growth of “*pork barrel*” politics; the political debate has been coarsened, becoming more “*partisan and bitter... more polarised and tribal*”.

Tradition is so strongly ingrained in the American system that efforts to reform the system appear to fall on deaf ears

for the most part. Still, there are some novel ideas generated for reforming the political process, trying to involve more people, reducing the importance of money, and utilizing modern means of communications represented by the internet.

On group called *Americans Elect* wants to unleash a broad-based online process to enlist the “participation by Americans of all political stripes in selecting a non-partisan presidential ticket that will be an alternative to the tickets put up by the two major parties”. Americans would communicate with each other online and identify/discuss what their top issues and concerns are. From these deliberations they would then proceed to nominate potential presidential candidates who could be members of any political party, and could be even be candidates in the Democratic or Republican primary processes as well.

The scenario would develop as follows:

After a full online vetting process, candidates will answer sets of policy questions driven by voters’ concerns, “delegates” will select their Americans Elect presidential candidate in an “online convention”. Any registered voter, of any party or no party, can participate as a “delegate” and vote in this online convention.

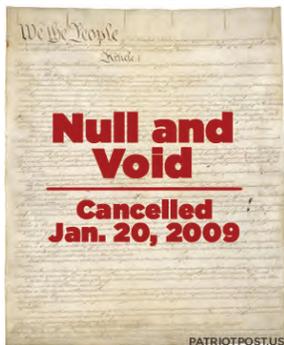
If the top vote-getter in the online convention agrees to accept the nomination, s/he will then pick a running mate who must be from another political party. This ticket comprised of people from more than one party will then represent Americans Elect on the general election ballot in all the states for which the organization has achieved ballot access.

Finally, for enhancing the voting process there should be an additional option on the ballot, namely “nobody”. By adding ‘nobody’ to each ballot would make it possible to more accurately express preferences, if you don’t want to vote for any of the other candidates. Voting “Nobody” means you don’t have to choose the lesser of various evils. And, if the candidate wins, the election would need to be held again, with entirely different candidates

Quotes on the American System of Government

1. *It is one of the many ironies of the American political system that an un-elected and unaccountable body like the Supreme Court can in practice exercise so much political power in a system which proclaims itself as so democratic.*
Roger Darlington

2. *In the 2002 elections, the first national elections after the September 11th attacks, only 42% of eligible American voters actually cast bal-*



lots. Such statistics abound as evidence of America’s world-leading citizen apathy.....Voters’ apathy can be explained by frustrations, party politics, lack of knowledge about issues, or being fooled by idiots...
Stan Moore

3. *Our great industrial nation is controlled by its system of credit. Our system of credit is privately concentrated. The growth of the nation, therefore, and all our activities are in the hands of a few men...who necessarily, by very reason of their own limitations, chill and check and destroy genuine economic freedom...*
Woodrow Wilson (signer of the Federal Reserve Act, in exchange for campaign support. He said these words afterwards realizing what he had done)

4. *Democracy should be a fair form of governance. One man gets one vote....So, instead of “one man, one vote”, we see far less than half the eligible population even bothering to vote. Voters know intrinsically that the moneyed interests will get their way, no matter how the votes go. They know that laws and regulations are generally designed to protect corporate interests, and that laws are often completely ignored when they conflict with corporate interests.*
Stan Moore

5. *The makers of our constitution undertook to secure conditions favorable to the pursuit of happiness... They sought to protect Americans in their beliefs, their thoughts, their emotions and their sensations. They conferred, as against the government, the right to be let alone – the most comprehensive of the rights and the right most valued by civilized men.*
Justice Louis Brandeis



6. *Freedom is the recognition that no single person, no single authority or government has a monopoly on the truth, but that every individual life is infinitely precious, that every one of us put in this world for a reason and has something to offer. It’s so hard for government planners, no matter how sophisticated, to ever substitute for millions of individuals working night and day to make their dreams come true. The fact is, bureaucracies are a problem around the world.*
Ronald Reagan



8. *I’d rather entrust the government of the United States to the first 400 people listed in the Boston telephone directory than to the faculty of Harvard University.*
William F. Buckley

Questions

1. In your opinion what are some of the greatest strengths of the American system of government? Explain.
2. Among some of the weaknesses of the American system of government, in your opinion which represents the greatest danger to their way of life? Explain why.
3. Consider the 7 quotes re: Americans and their democracy. Do you agree or disagree with the sentiments expressed? Why or why not?
4. On balance, is the American system of governance a fair one? Is there too much influence by corporate interests? Does everyone's vote count? Why do so few people bother to vote in elections? Are the races, ethnic groups, culture groups, gender groups equally represented, or does that really matter?
5. Of the many reforms proposed to improve the system, which are more likely and less likely to be introduced?
6. Would a proportional system of representation be of use in the American context?
7. What potential is there that the 2012 election can be a defining moment for Americans, bringing about a major shift or possible realignment of parties and their supporters?
8. Judging from some political talk show hosts they make it sound as if this election is a critical election in the sense that Americans are making an absolutely crucial choice in direction for their nation. Do you agree? Explain.
9. Is the depiction of the presidential candidates on pages 7 and 9 of this supplement fair? Why or why not? Truthful or false? What issue or situation is being presented in each one? Are the cartoons effective?

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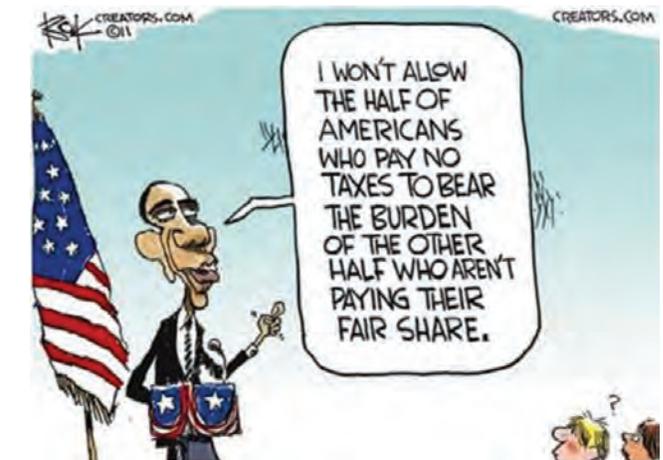
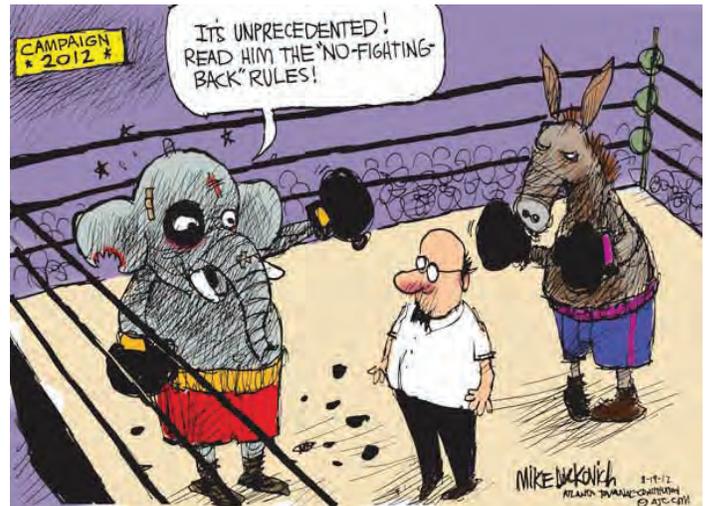
http://quotes.liberty-tree.ca/quotes_authors

<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/w/williamfb400600.html>

http://www.idea.int/publications/emd/upload/EMD_CS_USA.pdf

<http://www.broowaha.com/articles/4819/strength-and-weakness-of-the-american-political-system>

<http://verdict.justia.com/2011/12/23/the-americans-elect-movement-to-reform-presidential-elections>



Here is a list of useful websites for the material presented in this supplement.

<http://www.mediamonitors.net/stanmoore40.html> <http://www.rogerdarlington.me.uk/Americanpoliticalsystem.html>
http://www.ehow.com/info_8216763_advantages-disadvantages-parliamentary-government.html <http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/2011/08/17/does-america-need-a-prime-minister/>

<http://news.firedoglake.com/2011/08/26/the-weakness-of-the-american-governmental-system/> http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_dmPchuXI...

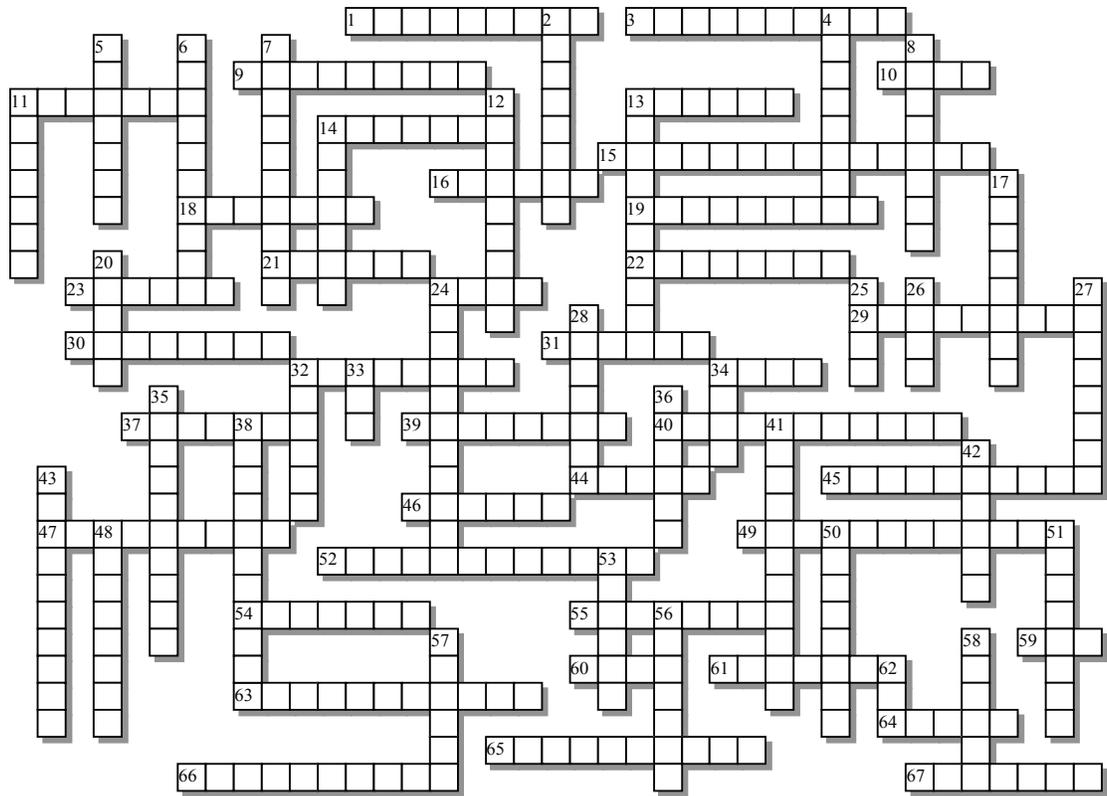
<http://www.antiessays.com/free-essays/81712.html>

<http://www.preservearticles.com/2012031026102/get-complete-information-on-the-strengths-and-weaknesses-of-republicanism.html>

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/about.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcSnZw8jTtw> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6QhP1tHXU4&feature>

Crossword Puzzle on American Political System



Across:

- 1 - Refers to the ability of a candidate to draw out votes for other candidates of the same party.
- 3 - The younger of two major political parties in the United States.
- 9 - Leftist ideology that prescribes a large role for government to intervene in society and the economy via taxation and public ownership.
- 10 - A presidential election is held once every _____ years
- 11 - The Seat of Congress in Washington D.C. where the inauguration of the President takes place.
- 13 - A series of meetings that is state-based for the selection of a party's candidate for presidency, an example is in Iowa.
- 14 - Number of eligible voters that actually voted in an election
- 15 - The act of campaigning.
- 16 - Candidate's political position on an issue, e.g. immigration.
- 18 - The heavy intervention of the state in societal affairs, especially in the economic system.
- 19 - If the Elector votes for someone other than the candidate for whom they were pledged to vote, they are called _____.
- 21 - Current occupier of the White House
- 22 - A form of government in which ultimate political power is derived from the people.
- 23 - Contributors of finances to political campaigns
- 24 - A piece of legislation under consideration by a legislative body.
- 29 - The institution established by the Founding Fathers to elect the President indirectly is the

Down:

- 2 - This term refers to an elected official who will be leaving during the period between the start and end of the election.
- 4 - This term refers to the collective legislative body and also to a specific two-year period.
- 5 - An election held in states to show voter preference of a party's candidate for the presidency.
- 6 - A legislative technique of delaying a vote to pass legislation by giving a long speech.
- 7 - Each state is given a number of votes based on its _____.
- 8 - The current Vice-President.
- 11 - Most recent president to undergo the process of 39 across.
- 12 - Unofficial vote that is used to predict the outcome of the official vote.
- 13 - The state with the largest number of votes in number 5 across.
- 14 - The Presidential Election is fixed for the first _____, following the first Monday in November.
- 17 - How many seats are needed for a majority in the U.S. Senate elections?
- 20 - The second ground that suffrage cannot be denied is _____.
- 24 - In this system, voters may pick one candidate for each office without regard to party line.
- 25 - The number 16 trillion refers to the new amount of the United States' national _____.
- 26 - Among the important powers of the president is the right to _____ legislation passed by Congress.
- 27 - A statement of a party's policies for an upcoming presidential election.

- _____ College.
- 30 - Movement driven by “average” people rather than politicians.
- 31 - “_____ ads” are aggressive, often simplistic messaging discrediting a political opponent
- 32 - This community recently became the largest minority group in the United States by population.
- 34 - Unlimited contributions to political parties from corporations, unions and wealthy individuals is known as _____ money.
- 37 - Was the more libertarian candidate in 2012 Republican Presidential Candidate.
- 39 - Month in which the President and Vice President of the United States are officially declared elected.
- 40 - The more conservative approach to interpretation of the Constitution is called _____.
- 44 - This term refers to the states in which no single party has more support in winning that state's votes.
- 45 - A procedure that enables a policy question to be put directly to the electorate pending the collection of a certain number of signatures
- 46 - Established, although unofficial- political symbol for the Democratic Party.
- 47 - Current President’s signature healthcare system.
- 49 - Highly-contested states where the overall election result hangs in the balance.
- 52 - Body that interprets the laws as to their constitutionality
- 54 - Head of the House of Representatives
- 55 - Was conservative Republican opponent of Romney during primaries.
- 59 - How many senators are elected to serve six-year terms in each State?
- 60 - The Constitution states that the right to vote cannot be denied on four grounds. The first is _____.
- 61 - An individual partnered with another individual on a joint ticket during an election is called a _____ mate.
- 63 - A practice to divide a voting district in such a way as to make it easier for one political party to win future elections.
- 64 - The ability to get other individuals to do as one wants them to do.
- 65 - The purpose of political conventions is primarily to assign the party’s _____ for the office of president.
- 66 - Office traditionally occupied by the President in the White House.
- 67 - A legal resident of a nation qualified to vote

- 28 - Name of American ambassador killed in Libya
- 32 - Current Attorney-General of the United States.
- 33 - The third ground that suffrage cannot be denied is _____.
- 34 - “_____ doctor”, p. r. person who publicizes a favorable interpretation of the words or actions of a political party
- 35 - Appropriation of government spending for a localized project, often seen a corrupting practice
- 36 - Republican Party’s nominee for President of the United States.
- 38 - The public’s perception of candidates is influenced by media reports and _____ campaigns costing lots of money.
- 41 - A formal accusation in Congress against a public official and the resulting trial.
- 42 - The right of citizens to keep and bear arms is guaranteed by the _____ amendment.
- 43 - Number of Electoral College votes needed to become President
- 48 - A ballot that is cast the day prior to the election.
- 50 - Government's power to take money legally from the populace
- 51 - The state where the Vice-President is from.
- 53 - President given major credit for collapse of Soviet Union.
- 56 - This amendment offers for each elector to cast one vote for President and one vote for Vice President.
- 57 - The Vice-President of the U.S. is also the President of the _____.
- 58 - Constitution now requires Senators to be elected by a _____ vote of those he/she will represent.
- 62 - The popular acronym for the Republican Party is _____.



their living arrangements, will make it clear that in this country, "family" can mean almost anything at all. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Sean Kilpatrick) <http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/canada/Census+Highlights+Snapshot+Canadian+families+from+census+2011/7265360/story.html>

They are among Canada's most vulnerable children and, for the first time in census history, their numbers have been counted... According to the latest census release from Statistics Canada, a total of 47,885 children were living in foster care in Canada in 2011... for the first time, the census provides a Canada-wide snapshot of children and youth who have been removed from their families.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/09/19/census-2011-canadas-foster-children-counted-for-first-time/>

Just friends: census may have counted roommates as married gay couples.

Stats Canada says it may have overestimated by as many as 4,500 the number of same-sex married couples in parts of the country.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/life/Just+friends+census+have+counted+roommates+married+couples/7267008/story.html>

2011 census shows jump in common-law unions and a sharp increase in same-sex couples as traditional family model gives way to single-parent families and stepfamilies.

<http://www.theprovince.com/index.html>

Census: Alone, with friends or with family, Canada's seniors broaden lifestyle options

<http://www.thestar.com/>

La famille nucléaire de moins en moins la norme, surtout au Québec



La «blonde de mon père», le «copain de maman», «mon demi-frère», «ma petite soeur par alliance» font désormais partie du vocabulaire d'un enfant canadien sur 10.

Le mariage est en déclin dans la région de Montréal

L'institution du mariage est en déclin dans la région de Montréal, selon de nouvelles données du recensement qui of-



front une nouvelle perspective sur la composition complexe des familles canadiennes contemporaines.

Les nouvelles données provenant du recensement de 2011, publiées mercredi par Statistique Canada, dévoilent les différentes façons dont les Canadiens vivent en couple: mariés ou en union libre, de sexe opposé ou de même sexe, avec ou sans enfant et - recensé pour la première fois - dans des familles reconstituées

<http://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/201209/19/01-4575570-le-mariage-est-en-declin-dans-la-region-de-montreal.php>

Highlights from 2011 Census Release

One major finding was that "families and living arrangements of Canadians underwent further change and diversification during the past five years." Here is a summary of the main points as found on the Statistics Canada website:

- Married couples declined as a proportion of all census families between 2006 and 2011 but still formed the predominant family structure in Canada, accounting for two-thirds of all families. In contrast, this group made up 90% of Canadian households in 1961.
- The proportion of common-law couples and lone-parent families both increased, and for the first time, common-law couples outnumbered lone-parent families in 2011.
- About 8 in 10 lone-parent families were female lone-parent families.
- The number of same-sex married couples nearly tripled between 2006 and 2011, The census counted 64,575 same-sex couple families in 2011, up 42.4% from 2006. Of these, 21,015 were same-sex married couples and 43,560 were same-sex common-law couples. Same-sex couples accounted for 0.8% of all couples in 2011.
- Stepfamilies represented about one in eight couple families with children. The census counted 464,335 stepfamilies in 2011. They represented 12.6% of the nearly 3.7 million couple families with children.

- About two-thirds of children aged 14 and under lived with married parents in 2011, while an increasing share lived with common-law parents.
- The share of children living in private households with married parents decreased between 2001 and 2011. Of the nearly 5.6 million children aged 14 and under, 63.6% lived with married parents in 2011 compared with 68.4% in 2001. Over the same period, the percentage living with common-law parents rose from 12.8% to 16.3%.
- Nearly 1,078,600 children, 19.3% of all children in private households, lived with lone parents in 2011, up from 18.0% in 2001. More than four out of five children (82.3%) who lived with a lone parent lived with a female lone parent.
- Data showed 1 out of every 10 children aged 14 and under in private households lived in a stepfamily in 2011. About 557,950 children aged 14 and under lived in stepfamilies in 2011, 10.0% of all children.
- Among young adults aged 20 to 29 to live with their parents appears to have levelled off. Of the 4,318,400 young adults in this age group, 42.3% lived in the parental home in 2011, This proportion was relatively unchanged from 2006, although it was well above the share of 32.1% in 1991 and 26.9% in 1981.
- The share of young adults aged 20 to 29 living in couples has continued its long-term decline. In 2011, 30.8% of young adults in their 20s were in a couple, down from 32.8% in 2006. In 1981, more than half (51.8%) of young adults were part of couples.
- A higher share of seniors aged 65 and over lived as part of a couple in a private household in 2011 compared with 2001.
- Proportion of senior women who lived alone declined, Between 2001 and 2011, living alone declined primarily for senior women, with the largest decrease in share among women aged 80 to 84. Within this age group, 40.2% of women lived alone in 2011, down from 46.1% in 2001.
- However, in 2011, women aged 65 and over were nearly twice as likely to live alone as men: 31.5% compared with 16.0% of men.
- About 1 in every 12 seniors lived in a collective dwelling, such as a nursing home or a residence for senior citizens.
- The 2011 Census counted just over 13,320,600 private households, up 7.1% from 2006.
- The number of one-person households increased 10.4% between 2006 and 2011 to just over 3,673,300, or 27.6% of the total. For the first time, the number of one-person households in 2011 exceeded the number of couple households

with children aged 24 and under (3,524,915).

- In 2006, for the first time, there were more households comprised of couples without children (29.0%) than households comprised of couples with children (28.5%). In 2011, this gap widened, as 29.5% of households were comprised of couples without children and 26.5% comprised of couples with children.

<http://www.canada.com/Census+Highlights+Snapshot+Canadian+families+from+census+2011/7265360/story.html#ixzz26wDCYC86>

Questions, Activities and Discussions

1. Have students discuss the purposes of census taking, its pros and cons.
2. Have students identify and then evaluate the relative uses that can be made from census data.
3. Have students consider the use of census data from the point of view of a
 - financial firm like a bank
 - large house building company
 - college or university president
 - union leader
 - transit expert
 - farmers' organization
 - healthcare administrator
 - municipal planners
 - social workers
 - tourism and travel industry
4. Compare and contrast the main headlines from the online version of 7 newspapers cited from across Canada. What might account for the different take among these media outlets?
5. Do the headlines correspond faithfully to the actual data found on the Stats Canada website?
6. Are there any trends that ought to disturb us in any way? Are there changes to be welcomed in any way? Consider what is happening to
 - children
 - young adults
 - seniors
 - marriage as an institution
 - composition of households
7. Assign the sections of the Statistics Canada report released on September 19 to different groups of students.
 - have them summarize their section for the rest of the class
 - let each group identify three possible practical uses of the information contained in that section of the report.