

**Unit Outline for:**  
**The American Electoral Process**

**Summary:**

This unit focuses on how the electoral process of the United States works. Though the American electoral process includes hundreds of elected offices, we will focus our attention on the Presidential election process. First we will consider both the formal Constitutional structures including the qualifications for the presidency, the electoral college system and the relevant amendments. Next we will look at the informal traditional processes that have evolved over the years including the two party system, winner take all system, and campaigning.

**Contextualized Essential Question:**

How has the President of the United States used executive power to impact the course of history?

**Critical Skill Focus:**

Comparison Reasoning--Keywords, Elements, Identification, & Analysis (Diagramming)

Thesis--URCAL characteristics

Evidence--how to assess reliability/authoritativeness (PROPP)

Commentary--what it should do

**Sources:**

<p><i>The Constitution of the United States</i> PPT: Electing the President &amp; the Constitution PPT: Electing the President--The Traditional Practices PPT: Pros &amp; Cons of the Electoral System</p>	<p>PPT: Intro to Comparison Reasoning Page, "How Money Corrupts..." Brooks, "Don't Follow the Money" McCarthy, "How Much Does Money..."</p>
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**Content Questions:**

1. What are the Constitutional bases underlying the American Electoral process?
2. What are the extra-Constitutional aspects of the present day American Electoral process?
3. What are the characteristics of the modern political campaign?

**Terms, Concepts & People:**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Democracy</li> <li>2. Democratic Republic</li> <li>3. Constitution</li> <li>4. Federal Government</li> <li>5. Preamble</li> <li>6. Articles</li> <li>7. Sections &amp; Clauses</li> <li>8. Amendment</li> <li>9. Bill of Rights</li> <li>10. Electoral College</li> <li>11. Simple Majority</li> <li>12. House of Representatives</li> <li>13. Popular Vote</li> <li>14. Electoral Vote</li> <li>15. Political Party</li> <li>16. Two Party System</li> <li>17. Democratic Party</li> <li>18. Republican Party/GOP</li> <li>19. Third Party</li> <li>20. Campaign</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. Candidate</li> <li>22. Winner Take All</li> <li>23. Red State</li> <li>24. Blue State</li> <li>25. Swing/Battleground State</li> <li>26. Domestic policy</li> <li>27. Economy</li> <li>28. Foreign policy</li> <li>29. Issue</li> <li>30. Platform</li> <li>31. Primary &amp; Caucus</li> <li>32. Super Tuesday</li> <li>33. Delegate</li> <li>34. Convention</li> <li>35. Nominate/Nomination/Nominee</li> <li>36. Running Mate</li> <li>37. Ticket</li> <li>38. General election</li> <li>39. Debate</li> <li>40. Independent</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41. Endorsement</li> <li>42. Campaign Slogan</li> <li>43. Sound Bite</li> <li>44. Stump Speech</li> <li>45. Pressing the Flesh</li> <li>46. Base</li> <li>47. Mobilization</li> <li>48. Registration</li> <li>49. Interest Groups</li> <li>50. War Chest</li> <li>51. Political Action Committee (PAC)</li> <li>52. Bundler</li> <li>53. Spending Cap</li> <li>54. <i>Citizen's United vs. FEC</i></li> <li>55. SuperPAC</li> <li>56. Hard Money</li> <li>57. Soft Money</li> <li>58. Dark Money</li> <li>59. Gerrymandering</li> <li>60. The Political Spectrum</li> </ol>
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