|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Simple Definition** |
| Beneficiary (n.) | A person who benefits from something, like a decision or an insurance policy |
| Deliberation (n.) | A long, careful discussion or consideration |
| Pan (v.) | To severely criticize |
| Rationale (n.) | A set of reasons that form the basis of a decision or belief |
| Swing state/Battleground state (n.) | A state where Republicans and Democrats have similar levels of support among voters, and which often play an important role in determining the winner of presidential elections |

**The Electoral College**

**Relevant Vocabulary**

**Activity 1 (15 minutes)**

[**https://www.kqed.org/lowdown/3825/what-is-the-electoral-college-and-is-it-time-to-get-rid-of-it**](https://www.kqed.org/lowdown/3825/what-is-the-electoral-college-and-is-it-time-to-get-rid-of-it)

***If the above link does not work, here are the directions to get to the video:***

Google “how the electoral college works the lowdown” and find the link that starts with “explainer.”

**Assignment**

Watch the video and take notes on it for discussion using this question as a guide:

1. Do you think the Electoral College still makes sense today? Why or why not?

**Activity Two (20 minutes)**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvzARzuxvbM**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvzARzuxvbM)

***If the above link does not work, here are the directions to get to the video:***

Google “this proposal calls for popular vote to determine the winner pbs newshour” and watch the clip from YouTube. Jot down answers to these questions for a discussion:

1. What is the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact?
2. What is an argument in favor of the Compact?
3. What is an argument against the Compact?

**When you finish these activities, please pick up a copy of the two handouts to annotate:**

*The Electoral College: The Case For*

*The Electoral College: The Case Against*

**Discussion questions (15-20 minutes)**

*Set up in groups of four*

*Be prepared to discuss these questions as a small group*

1. In what ways does the Electoral College support democracy? In what ways is it undemocratic?

2. What are two ways the Electoral College system makes people feel like their votes don’t count?

3. Do you think the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is a good idea? Why or why not?

4. What are other ideas you can think of for reforming the Electoral College system?