

1. Voter turnout is influenced by constitutional provisions, voting laws, and demographics.

(a) Identify the effect of one of the following amendments on the electorate.

- Fifteenth Amendment
- Nineteenth Amendment
- Twenty-sixth Amendment

(b) Explain how each of the following factors may affect voter turnout.

- Motor voter laws
- Photo identification laws

(c) Select one of the following demographic features and describe its relationship to the likelihood of a person voting in an election.

- Education
- Age

(d) Explain why voter turnout is different in each of the following.

- Presidential versus midterm elections
- Primary versus general elections

1.

2. Political parties play important roles in United States elections and government institutions. Over the past several decades, the influence of political parties in elections has declined while their strength in Congress has increased.

(a) Describe two important functions of political parties in United States elections.

~~(b) Describe one important role political parties play within Congress to promote the party's public policy agenda.~~

(c) Explain how each of the following factors has weakened the influence of political parties over the political process.

- Direct primaries
- Candidate-centered campaigns

3. Linkage institutions—such as political parties, the media, and interest groups—connect citizens to the government and play significant roles in the electoral process.

(a) Describe one important function of political parties as a linkage institution in elections.

(b) Describe the influence of the media on the electoral process in each of the following roles.

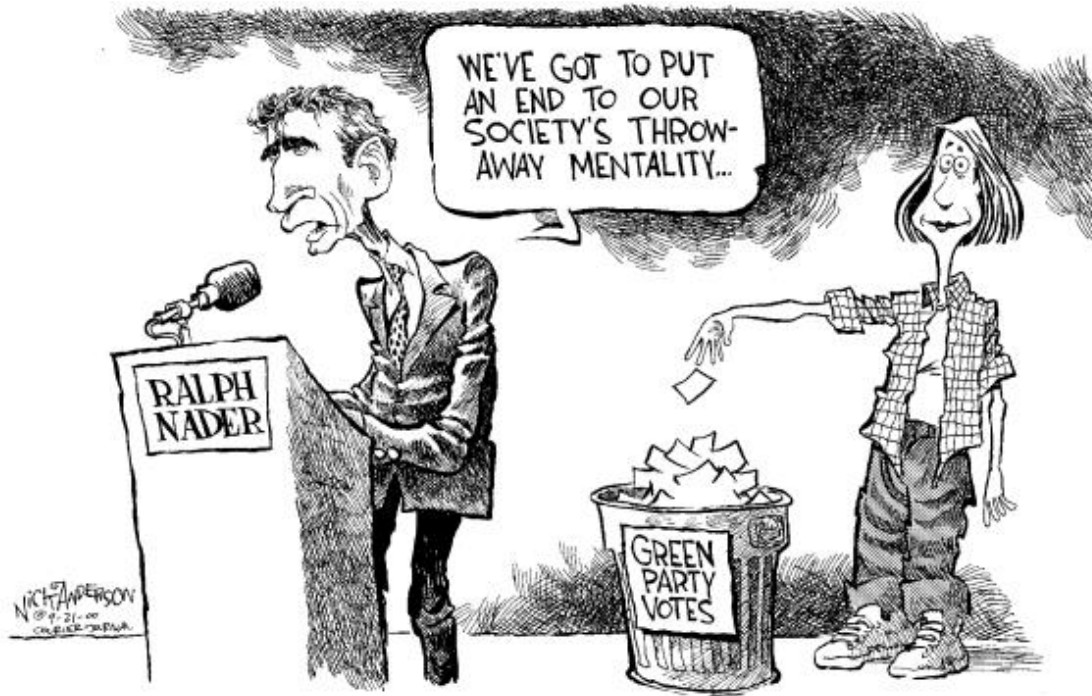
- Gatekeeping/agenda setting
- Scorekeeping/horse race journalism

3.

4.

Nominees for the presidency of the two major parties are chosen by delegates at national conventions. How these delegates are chosen varies across states and between the political parties.

- a. Define each of the following methods used by states to choose delegates to party conventions.
 - Open primary
 - Caucus
- b. Republican Party rules permit winner-take-all primaries. Describe one consequence of this rule for the Republican nomination process.
- c. The Democratic Party has used superdelegates in the presidential nominating process since 1984. Explain why the use of superdelegates increases the influence of party leaders in the Democratic nomination process.
- d. Explain why a candidate's strategy to win the nomination is often different from the strategy developed to win the general election.



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Minor parties (third parties) have been a common feature of United States politics.

- (a) Describe the point of view expressed about minor parties in the political cartoon above.
- (b) Identify and explain how two rules of the United States electoral system act as obstacles to minor-party candidates winning elections.
- (c) Minor parties make important contributions to the United States political system in spite of the institutional obstacles to their candidates' success. Describe two of these contributions.

5.