

## Edwards 17 Chapter 9 Assignment

1. How do the frequency of elections cause governing not to experiment with finding solutions to problems?
2. What does it mean to receive a party's nomination for office?
3. What is the role of the national convention in the nomination of candidates for president?
4. What reforms did Democrats undertake to convention delegate selection as a result of the McGovern-Fraser Commission?
5. Why were these reforms put into effect?
6. What were the consequences of the McGovern-Fraser Commission reforms?
7. How is voting for national convention delegates an attempt to make our political system more democratic?
8. How do superdelegates represent the antithesis of democracy?
9. In what ways can superdelegates undermine the public's choice for a nominee? (As of 7/9/18 no changes have been adopted, but are being discussed)
10. How might the invisible primary keep a popular candidate from moving forward with trying to win their party's nomination for president?
11. Which state is first in the presidential nominating process?
12. As of the 2010 census Iowa was 88.7% White non-Hispanic and 77% actively Christian. Why should anyone care that the Iowa gets first crack on reducing the number of candidates moving on to the next state in the election process?
13. How does the caucus system in Iowa work? Why is it so labor intensive for candidates?
14. How is a presidential primary election different from a caucus?
15. Which state holds the first primary?
16. After these first two states a number of candidates who don't do well there drop out of the race. Why does it matter that this state is 92.3% White non-Hispanic, has an average household income of \$65,028 and 7.3% poverty rate, and only has 1.3 million people (? (Fresno average household income is \$41,455; 42.2% poverty rate; Fresno county has just about 1 million people)
17. Why is frontloading critically important given the factual statement in question 16?
18. In 2008 Michigan and Florida attempted to move their primaries. Use the internet to see how the Democratic Party responded to this.
19. What effect did California with more than 10% of the nation's population have on both the Republican and Democratic nomination process?
20. How does the media's scorekeeper role (seeing the election as a horse race) influence people's opinions of the candidates' chances of winning?
21. Minnesota seated 77 delegates at the 2016 national convention. Iowa 44. How does Figure 9.1 show the undue influence of early primary/caucus states such as Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina?
22. How does the nomination process not reflect a good cross-section of America when it comes to selecting candidates?
23. How is a party platform as important as who wins the presidential nomination?
24. What does it mean to allocate resources?
25. In what ways can it be seen that technology is more often the way that the public learns about candidates running for president?
26. How has technology allowed candidates to reach potential donors at a fraction of the cost

used in direct mail campaigns?

27. What proof exists that political ads are more substantive than they are given credit for?

28. How are “canned” newsfeeds an attempt by candidates to control how they are covered in the media?

29. Hillary stopped at a Chipotle on the 2016 campaign trail. The media ate it up? Why was something like this ever considered newsworthy?

30. Running for president requires an entourage or squad. Identify and explain this statement with five examples.

31. How does the reality of question 30 represent just a fraction of why it is so expensive to run for president?

32. Compare and contrast campaign contributions and independent expenditures.

33. Who does the spending of independent expenditures and what activity CANNOT happen?

34. How much can an individual today donate to a candidate running for office?

35. What role does the Federal Election Commission play in elections?

36. The Campaign Finance Reform Act legalized PACs. What can PACs do?

37. Why have recent candidates for president chosen not to accept the free money from tax payer income tax donations? (See Figure 9.2)

38. How could soft money be a way to curry favor with candidates?

39. What is a 527 group?

40. How do 527 groups get around campaign donation limits?

41. What was decided in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*?

42. How did the ruling in *Citizens United* make it so that more money will find its way into elections?

43. When corporations and individuals could give unlimited amounts to Super PACs that money still had to be publicly announced giving the public the opportunity to react. Why should that money be put into 501 ( c ) 4s instead?

44. Why should the public care about who is donating how much to campaigns through 501 ( c ) 4s, Super PACs or even regular PACs? How does knowing who’s giving what make a difference?

45. How does the fact that many Super PACs supporting candidates are often run by former employees of the candidate imply that the independence of the independent expenditures made by Super PACs may not be totally independent?

46. Why should it bother us that 2/3 of a senator’s last two years of office is spent with them trying to get money to get back into their job? (What gets neglected during this time?)

47. How does Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez’s primary victory in the Bronx over incumbent Joseph Crowley despite being outspent 18-1 represent the idea that money alone can’t buy victory? How was she able to win over the number 4 Democrat in the House of Representatives?

48. How does selective perspective affect campaigning for office?

49. If the number of people identifying as independent continues to rise then how does this affect campaigning?

50. How are wedge issues used in elections?

51. Define suffrage.

52. How do the high incarceration rates for minorities diminish the voting power of their respective groups?

53. What is the first thing one must do to be able to vote? (Something you should be doing in the

next year...)

54. Why do you think voting frequency leads to lower voting rates?
55. What day of the week do elections take place?
56. How might this lead to lower voting than if it were on a weekend?
57. Define political efficacy.
58. Why is voter registration necessary?
59. Who is in charge of voter registration in the United States?
60. What does the Motor Voter Act do?
61. Why would Republican led states make it harder to register to vote? Which groups are least likely to participate in elections? What political affiliation are those groups likely to have?
62. Which groups are less likely to have a government issued identification card? Why would they not having an identification card to vote please Republicans?
63. Based on the election turnout for president and congress given on page 264 and 267, what conclusion can be said about voting in presidential and midterm elections?
64. What education level, age, and ethnic status are associated more strongly with voting?
65. What education level, age, and ethnic status are associated with not voting?
66. Based on 64 and 65 can you see why the government really doesn't have to care what you think the government should be doing? It's not like you're going to hold them accountable...Or will you be the exception? BE EXCEPTIONABLE!
67. What does it mean that a politician has received a mandate from the people?
68. Why does a party label make it generally "ok" to be an ill-informed voter when it comes to voting for candidates?
69. How has modern technology made elections more about candidates and less about parties?
70. What are the four requirements of policy voting?
71. How can Hillary Clinton tell you that the popular vote isn't what's important to getting elected president?
72. What is the electoral college?
73. How has the electoral college become something that the founders wouldn't recognize?
74. How are most electoral votes awarded?
75. How does this cause many popular votes to be disregarded?
76. What happens if no candidate wins a majority of the electoral college?
77. How does the electoral college give the edge to rural voters?
78. Why does the existence of battleground or swing states garner an undue amount of attention from candidates?
79. Why would it not be a good idea for a Democratic candidate to spend time and money in a state like Utah?
80. How many electoral votes are there?
81. How many electoral votes does it take to become president?
82. Using the map on page 276, how can you make the argument that about 36 states were irrelevant to the 2016 election?
83. What does it mean that a government has legitimacy?
84. Why should candidates for 2020 be on the ground in Iowa and New Hampshire even though it isn't anywhere near 2020?
85. How are elections our ability to hold politicians accountable for their actions or inaction?