

Malapportionment

Your Party _____

Below is a map of a hypothetical county containing 100 voters and three political parties. There are twenty-eight Democrats, eight Independents and sixty-four Republicans, who are at the locations indicated. If no party/candidate gains a majority of the votes, the state election laws that apply to this county specify that a party/candidate with a plurality wins the election.

You have been asked (as a representative of your assigned party) to draw a redistricting plan for this county. You want to enhance your party's position in future elections.

Rules:

1. There must be five districts.
2. Districts must contain a minimum of ten voters.
3. Fragmented districts are not allowed.

D	R	R	R	R	D	R	R	D	D
D	D	R	R	D	I	I	I	R	D
D	D	I	R	R	D	D	R	I	R
R	I	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D
R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	D
D	D	R	R	D	R	R	R	R	R
R	R	R	I	R	D	R	R	R	R
R	D	R	D	R	D	R	R	R	R
R	R	R	D	R	R	R	R	D	R
R	R	D	I	R	R	R	R	R	R

Unit 4: Political Geography – Malapportionment and Gerrymandering

Directions: Answer all of the questions below.

Reading

Use the internet to find the answers to the following questions.

1. What are motives for drawing biased plans?
2. Define malapportionment.
3. Define gerrymandering.
4. How is gerrymandering different from malapportionment?
5. Three tactics are used to achieve gerrymandering: packing, stacking and splitting. Define each.
6. What other factors are taken into consideration when redistricting?

Malapportionment

1. What notable differences do you see in each plan?
2. How does the amount of malapportionment differ from the Republican plan and the others?
3. Why might malapportionment be greater in the Democratic and Independent plans?
4. Even though packing, stacking and splitting are often terms associated with gerrymandering do you see any evidence of it in your plans? If so, how?
5. Look at the rules for the Gerrymandering redistricting plan. Would some of the districts drawn in your plans be illegal?

Gerrymandering

1. Was the gerrymandering process easier than the malapportionment process? If so, why? If not, why?
2. Do you see evidence of packing, stacking and splitting? If so, give an example.

Conclusion

1. Why is this activity unrealistic?
2. Why is political redistricting an important geographical and political process?