

Argumentative research paper

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by Tiffany Scott

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Good title

To Have or Not to Have an Electoral College

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EN1300

04/08/2021

The Electoral college

Every country deserves a chance at a fair and free election no matter the situation; citizens deserve to pick their *chosen* leader. A good leader can represent what the citizens stand for, their demands and needs according to how they strive to make it daily. Therefore, it is *Good word choice.* paramount that fair and credible elections take place so that these individuals get a chance for representation. The system in place in modern America is the electoral college system; being a nation at the forefront, it is known that many countries look up to them to lead them. *Who is them? To lead the other countries? How so?* Raising the question of the electoral college system's actual efficiency as the *United States needs to be capitalized.* mode of election in the united states of America. *Frag.*

Where is your argumentative thesis statement? **Argumentative Thesis Statement**

The past few elections have been held using this system and have further raised suspicion as to the real efficiency of this mode of carrying out elections. To be precise, the last two elections have proved that the system might possess some loopholes and inefficiency. The unexpected has happened in the recent past (2020 election). Former President Trump missed the inauguration for Current President Biden. This is a huge blow to every American system and shows the electoral college system's current flaw as the main system for elections. This was an unprecedented act.

What did Trump skipping the inauguration ceremony have to do with an inefficient electoral college system? Explain.

The electoral college system has been in use for the past two centuries in the United States and has produced some of the best presidents the country has ever witnessed. However, it is time to abolish this system as it proves that it has been flawed and may no longer possess the efficiency it had in the past centuries. This system needs to be abolished for the sake of everyone; the turn of events in the previous elections might turn out to be the start of the fall of

Thesis statement

Announcing Intent al college as the main mode of elections in the United States of America. *Therefore,* this study will aim at investigating whether this system needs to be maintained, abolished, or

upgraded to ensure that there are free and fair elections where the citizens can rely on to provide a reliable and trustworthy outcome.

How does the electoral college work?

The electoral college system is a modern body responsible for the President's and the vice president's election in the United States of America. They help choose presidents and vice presidents for the election. There are at least two electors in each state. Each elector casts a single vote following the general election, with a candidate requiring a simple majority to win the election. The formation of the electoral college was aimed at ensuring that the American citizens have a process that would guarantee them yields of a leader who would command the sub majority. The framers of the constitution established the Electoral College to determine the winner of the US presidential election to protect the dominance of larger populous states like California, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. It was a measure meant to protect small states like Iowa. Overall, there are a total of 538 college votes. For a candidate to be declared the winner, he/she must garner half of the college votes which is 270. Even if a candidate wins the popular vote but fails to get more college votes than the opponent, the opponent will be declared the winner even if he/she has fewer popular votes.

Why is this the case? Shouldn't the popular vote be more important than the electoral college vote?

Normally, the Electoral college decides the winner of a presidential election jointly with the vice president. Political parties in each state come up with a list of potential electors before the election is done in November every four years. When voting for president electors have pledged to also vote for their vice president. Nebraska and Maine are the only two states that do not automatically give electoral votes based on popular votes. California is allocated 55 votes, Texas 38 votes, Florida 29 votes, New York 29 votes, New York 29, Pennsylvania, and Illinois each 20 votes. States with very few votes include Hawaii and Idaho (4 votes), Alaska,

Interesting. Why is this?

Delaware, Montana, Wyoming and South and North Dakota (3 votes). It is important to note that these votes were distributed based on the 2010 census and were effective for 2012, 2016, and 2020 presidential elections. The total number of the college votes for each candidate are tallied and whoever gets the majority (270 and above) wins the presidency.

The system differentiates the state legislators from the voting process, which is clearly and carefully defined. This system states that the electors are supposed to vote for the two most capable and qualified persons without specifying whether for the presidency or vice presidency. The candidate with the most votes is declared the winner and is deemed the President, and the one with the least votes is said to be the vice president (Albert et al. 2005). In most cases, the president who has won the popular votes wins the electoral college votes. However, there have been cases whereby the candidate who wins the popular votes fails to win get most of the college votes, hence losing the presidency. The 2016 presidential election was the fifth presidential election in history in which the electoral college awarded the candidate with low popular vote a presidential win. In the 2016 election, Donald Trump got 304 electoral college votes while Hilary Clinton got 227 votes. This is despite Clinton having gotten a popular vote by garnering 65,844,610 votes against Trump's 62,979,636 votes. This is the latest election in which the candidate who won the popular vote failed to win the electoral college votes.

The electoral college system has been in use for the past two centuries in the United States and has produced some of the best presidents the country has ever witnessed. The great nation's forefathers founded this system to develop a system that shields the elections from manipulation by ongoing politics. The electoral college is also written in the us constitution.

To understand, we further need to learn how the electoral college works and incorporate its agenda into representing the American people. This great nation's forefathers founded this

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system to develop a system that shields the elections from manipulation by ongoing politics. The system differentiates the state legislators from the voting process, which is clearly and carefully defined. This system states that the electors are supposed to vote for the two most capable and qualified persons without specifying whether for the presidency or vice presidency.

2

The candidate with the most votes ends up winning the election and is deemed the President, and the one with the least votes is said to be the vice president. This has led to scrutiny as the voters deem this a limitation to them choosing the leader they want. A free and fair election should give them a chance at choosing the person of choice and limiting the options to two, yet the country holds so much potential for the presidency. This idea is quite challenged by the fact that some even opt to hold demonstrations against it. Nevertheless, this does not translate to a weaker system in all sense.

Confusing

Research shows that there is nothing harder to explain and understand in the constitution than this concept of the electoral college. A candidate can possess lower vote counts but possess a higher electoral college count and win the election quite complicated. Some even term this as just an idea used in the early 19th century as a tool to acquire the then ambition and situation that plagued them. Every time this happens, complaints are launched due to the voters' dissatisfaction as they feel helpless.

Evidence Needed

wc

This concept was applied upon by its founders, who had a sitting in the 1787 constitutional convention. Some felt that the establishment of a national government would ensure that the president ought to be chosen the people's direct vote. However, some were against this concept, the Sherman from Connecticut, and stated that the president should be elected by congress. he states that the people's election might give the monarchy a stance at grabbing a seat in the presidency on permanent installation.

Capitalize

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th4

According to some, the electoral college poses a huge threat; undermining its popularity will give opportunities for greedy dictators to gain power. A valid argument is presented as almost all famous dictators have risen to power through these types of elections. Therefore, this shows that, indeed, the Electoral college poses a threat to the people's free will.

Evidence Needed

Good Point

At first, the formation of the electoral college was aimed at ensuring that the American citizens have a process that would guarantee them yields of a leader who would command the sub majority. However, things have been different lately. The system has been flawed with biases, and it lost its integrity that its founders once treasured and had hoped for. The relation between federalism and the electoral college is defined in research articles by Robert Alexander.

Good Transitional Sentence

This study has outlined a couple of failures that further necessitate the abolition of the process. According to this research, one of these challenges is the fact that there is a lack of credible campaigns in small states as it produces leaders with the largest national appeal. This is not fair in any sense and completely dishonors the democracy of Americans great citizens

In-Text Citation Parenth. Ref. Info.

In the 2016 elections, questions were raised about how the electoral system worked after the country witnessed a shocking scene where the President-Elect was voted in by the electoral college even though he had lost the popular votes count. This is not right in all manner of democracy as it clearly states that democracy is the power of the people to the people. In this case, the people's power was stripped down by the same electoral college that was supposed to protect their demands and represent their opinions.

Good Point

Even books such as Beesnik Palushi's "Why the electoral college is bad for America" inform the people and aim to open their eyes to the real injustice that the electoral college is performing. This book raises questions about the case where Hilary Clinton had a massive win in

the popular vote count; **Capitalize** Donald Trump had the electoral college vote count and ended up being president of the **united states**. Therefore, does this truly depict the image of democracy and the right and freedom of vote of the American citizens and voters?

Good Transition

Furthermore, since its implementation over two decades ago, there have been no reforms **Good Point** made to it; this means that we continue to undoubtingly trust a system that was determined and set by people who lived in a very different era compared to now. The world is drastically changing over time. Even as we embrace technology's integration amongst other inventions made over the years that did not exist back then. This is further evidence that this system might no longer possess the ability to represent the citizens of the United states; therefore, *it's" because it's a contraction of "it" and "is."* completely biased.

Citizens deserve the fair right and freedom to elect a leader of their choosing, which is clearly stipulated in the Constitution. America has, over the years, been in the limelight for its

Confusing

resentation of freedom and democracy. **Becoming a role model for others envies these ideologies for themselves, yet they cannot achieve them.** Therefore, it is only right that we should have the best election strategy for our people being the pacesetter. Otherwise, we stand the chance of being overshadowed by other superpower ideologies from other parts of the world.

These rights include the right to elect a president of the people's choosing, a right that has over the years been undermined by the very body that is meant to ensure this is implemented. This is absurd and calls for immediate intervention, and it is a form of modern-day oppression. A country that strips its people of such basic rights can become a dictatorship and the rise of self-motivated intentions by those already in power. Further on, I pose the question, does Democracy really exist? What can be done for the people of America to ensure that they get this long-

awaited dream of democracy and freedom to vote for a member of their liking without such bodies.

The electoral college system has got several benefits both to the citizens and to the government itself. Firstly, the Electoral College design supports a simplified two-party system, allowing voters to make changes every four years (Jackson 1996). Secondly, the founding fathers believed that there exist situations where the majority might try and silence the minority, so they implemented this policy to combat such scenarios. Thirdly, the founding fathers decided the electoral college system to give both the North and the South an equal representation that they deserved in the long run, allowing them to liberate themselves.

Good explanation of the benefits.

Despite the benefits, the electoral college system has shown several weaknesses since its establishment by the United States citizens' forefathers. In the 2016 elections, questions were raised about how the electoral system worked after the country witnessed a shocking scene where the President-Elect was voted in by the electoral college even though he had lost the popular votes count. In this case, the people's power was stripped down by the same electoral college that was supposed to protect their demands and represent their opinions. The electoral college system helped maintain two-party dominance (political dictatorship?) in U.S. politics (Jackson 1996). The past few elections have been held using this system and have further raised suspicion about the actual efficiency of this mode of carrying out elections. To be precise, the last two elections have proved that the system might possess some loopholes and inefficiency. We noticed that the outgoing President, Donald Trump, skipped the incoming President Joe Biden's inauguration ceremony showing that the electoral college system's current flaw is the primary system for elections.

Evidence Needed

Other countries widely use two main electoral systems globally, the ¹⁴majority electoral system and the proportional representation system. In the majority electoral system, the winner ^{In-Text Citation Parenth. Ref. Info.} must get over 50% of the total votes to win the election. In other countries where the electoral college is not used, democracy is thought to thrive more. The will of the people is not overturned by a few electors. Democracy is about the majority having their way. The US electoral college is thought to stand on the way of the majority's will. The electoral college undermines democracy. Therefore, many democracies do not have it. ⁸The candidate who wins the popular vote automatically wins the presidency.

Good topic sentence. In conclusion, there is evidence that the electoral college has deteriorated its service delivery; this has led to its scrutiny with the evidence that five elections have been ruled in favor of the electoral college, diminishing the popularity count. However, after further research, ^{we} ^{2nd POV} have seen that the system was set in place to combat the inequalities that had been witnessed over the past years. The founding fathers made the decision not out of greed or misinformation but to protect future generations from manipulation from the majority. Therefore, the question we are left with is how to upgrade the system in a way that it accommodates the founding father's concerns and at the same time ensures that democracy is maintained.

Hi Tiffany, You chose a timely and important topic for your argumentative research paper. Your essay is well organized. In your revision, you tightened up and strengthened your argument by including opposing viewpoints and the refutation of them. The explanation you included of the electoral college and how it functions was very helpful for the reader. You still need to cite each entry on the references page at least once in the body of the essay as well as cite information that isn't common knowledge. Can you make it more clear how a new electoral system would benefit the country and what that system would consist of? See comments throughout. I look forward to reading your final draft. Sasha

7 References

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GRADEMARK REPORT

FINAL GRADE

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GENERAL COMMENTS

Instructor

PAGE 1

Text Comment. Good title

PAGE 2

QM

Abstract Info

Abstract

"Begin a new page. Your abstract page should already include the **page header** (described above). On the first line of the abstract page, center the word "Abstract" (no bold, formatting, italics, underlining, or quotation marks).

Beginning with the next line, write a concise summary of the key points of your research. (Do not indent.) Your abstract should contain at least your research topic, research questions, participants, methods, results, data analysis, and conclusions. You may also include possible implications of your research and future work you see connected with your findings. Your abstract should be a single paragraph double-spaced. Your abstract should be between 150 and 250 words.

You may also want to list keywords from your paper in your abstract. To do this, indent as you would if you were starting a new paragraph, type *Keywords:* (italicized), and then list your keywords. Listing your keywords will help researchers find your work in databases."

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Text Comment. Where is your abstract page?

QM

Attention-Getter

Your introduction needs a "hook" which can be surprising statistics, an anecdote, or a topical quote.

Text Comment. chosen

Text Comment. Make what daily? Be specific.

Text Comment. Good word choice.

Text Comment. To lead the other countries? How so?

Text Comment. Who is them?

Text Comment. United States needs to be capitalized.

QM

Frag.

This is a sentence fragment. See your textbook pp. 595-596 for more information about sentence fragments and how to correct them.

V□

QM

Argumentative Thesis Statement

The introduction needs to include your argumentative research thesis statement, which should include the side of the issue you will be arguing in favor of as well as the main points that support it.

Text Comment. Where is your argumentative thesis statement?

Text Comment. What did Trump skipping the inauguration ceremony have to do with an inefficient electoral college system? Explain.

Text Comment. Thesis statement

QM

Announcing Intent

Avoid announcing your intention with a phrase such as "This paper will. . ." or "In this paper I will. . ."

PAGE 3

Text Comment. a

Text Comment. What's the "sub-majority?" Define this for the reader.

Text Comment. Why is this the case? Shouldn't the popular vote be more important than the electoral college vote?

QM

Intro. Phrase or Clause

Place a comma following the introductory phrase or clause.

Text Comment. Interesting. Why is this?

PAGE 4

QM

Good Explanation

Good explanation.

Text Comment. ,

QM

Good Example

Good example.

QM

Paragraph Development Comp II

In order to be fully developed, unified, and focused, each paragraph should contain between six and eight sentences.

When you write a paragraph, you need to compose a topic sentence and support it with details in the following six to eight sentences. The paragraph should end with a concluding or transition sentence that sets the reader up for the next paragraph.

QM

Capitalize

Capitalize

QM

2nd POV

Avoid using second person point of view in formal writing (referring to the reader as "we," "you," "our," "us").

PAGE 5



Comment 1

Repetitious information.



Comment 2

Repetitious information.



Comment 3

Repetitious information.

QM

Confusing

This is confusing. Read it aloud to yourself.

QM

Evidence Needed

Where is evidence from your research sources that supports this statement?

QM

wc

incorrect word choice.

QM

sp

Incorrect spelling.

QM

wc

incorrect word choice.

QM

Capitalize

Capitalize

PAGE 6

QM

Paragraph Development Comp II

In order to be fully developed, unified, and focused, each paragraph should contain between six and eight sentences.

When you write a paragraph, you need to compose a topic sentence and support it with details in the following six to eight sentences. The paragraph should end with a concluding or transition sentence that sets the reader up for the next paragraph.

QM

Evidence Needed

Where is evidence from your research sources that supports this statement?

QM

Good Point

Good point.

QM

Good Transitional Sentence

Good transitional sentence.

QM

In-Text Citation Parenth. Ref. Info.

Make sure you include the author's last name or the title of the article if no author is listed, the year of publication, and the page or paragraph number, if applicable, in each in-text citation. If you are paraphrasing or summarizing information then you don't need to include the page or paragraph number; however, you do need to include page or paragraph numbers for directly quoted material.

QM

Good Point

Good point.

PAGE 7

QM

Capitalize

Capitalize

QM

Good Transition

Good transition.

QM

Good Point

Good point.

Text Comment. "it's" because it's a contraction of "it" and "is."

QM

Confusing

This is confusing. Read it aloud to yourself.

PAGE 8

Text Comment. Good explanation of the benefits.

~~Strikethrough.~~

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Text Comment. ,

QM

Evidence Needed

Where is evidence from your research sources that supports this statement?

QM

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Text Comment. Good topic sentence.

QM

2nd POV

Avoid using second person point of view in formal writing (referring to the reader as "we," "you," "our," "us").

Text Comment. Hi Tiffany, You chose a timely and important topic for your argumentative research paper. Your essay is well organized. In your revision, you tightened up and strengthened your argument by including opposing viewpoints and the refutation of them. The explanation you included of the electoral college and how it functions was very helpful for the reader. You still need to cite each entry on the references page at least once in the body of the essay as well as cite information that isn't common knowledge. Can you make it more clear how a new electoral system would benefit the country and what that system would consist of? See comments throughout. I look forward to reading your final draft. Sasha