

HOW TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE USA



TASK 1

A. Read the document you were given about the American presidential elections.

1. Ask your teacher questions whenever need be!

2. Explain why these people couldn't run for president in 2016, and say if they will be able to run in 2020.

NAME	AGE	BIRTHPLACE	PLACE OF RESIDENCE	ACTIVITY
Arnold Schwarzenegger	69	Thal, Austria	California	former Senator and actor
Meg Smith	32	Little Rock (AK)	New York City	NBC reporter
Rebecca Hashton	47	Detroit (MN)	Seattle (WA)	back from 2 years in Vietnam as an engineer
Marc Lacrosse	41	Montréal	Baton Rouge (LA)	house husband

3. What happens when?

Place the following events on the timeline.

Conventions of the parties in the summer before the election • the two candidates campaign • Primaries • General Election (the Tuesday following the first Monday in November) • Inauguration • Electoral College votes the month after General Election



TASK 2

A. The Electoral College and the “winner takes all” system.

1. The Electoral College? Explain.

2. California gets 55 electors while South Dakota only 3. Imagine why.

3. In all the states except Nebraska and Maine, the “winner takes all” system applies. What does it mean concretely?

B. These statements are right. Explain why.

1. Candidates often choose to focus their campaign efforts on some key states named “swing states”.

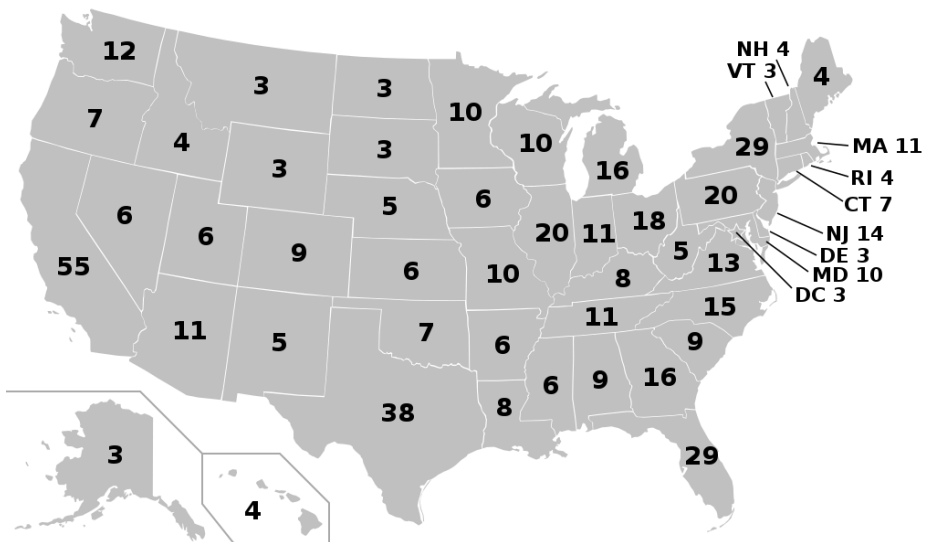
2. You can be elected president, even if you don’t get the majority of the popular vote.

TASK 3

A. List differences and similarities between the French and the American systems.

B. Complete these sentences comparing and contrasting the French and American electoral systems with *unlike, like, both, while, whereas, contrary to, as* or any relevant information.

1. the French President, the American President is not directly elected by the people.
2. In France, elections always take place on a Sunday, in the USA, Election Day takes place the Tuesday following the first Monday in November.
3. The American president is elected in one round in France, it usually takes two rounds to elect the president.
4. The US president has a term, the French president.
5. countries' presidents are now limited to terms.
6. In the USA in France, the President is part of the executive branch.



THE US ELECTORAL COLLEGE