

Warmup



How fair and effective is the electoral process?

A. Think about the words *fair* and *effective*. On the lines below, write down some words or phrases that you think are necessary to produce a fair and effective electoral process.

To be fair, the electoral process must

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

To be effective, the electoral process must

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

B. Using the criteria you identified above, and based on your impressions of the electoral process in the United States, rate the process on a scale of one to ten (with one being the lowest rating and ten being the highest). Briefly explain the reasons for your rating on the lines provided.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Reason _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

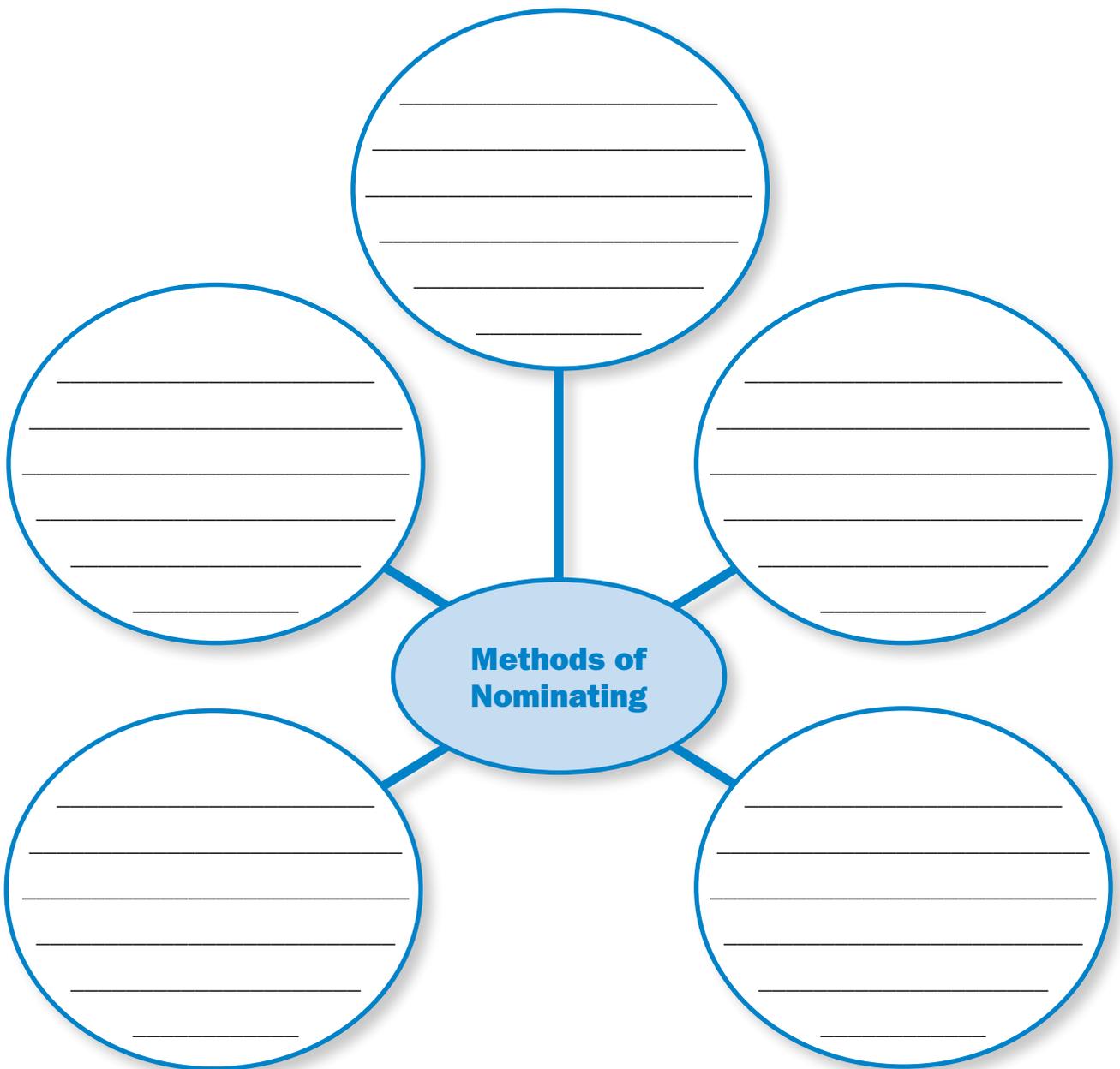
Reason _____

Exploration

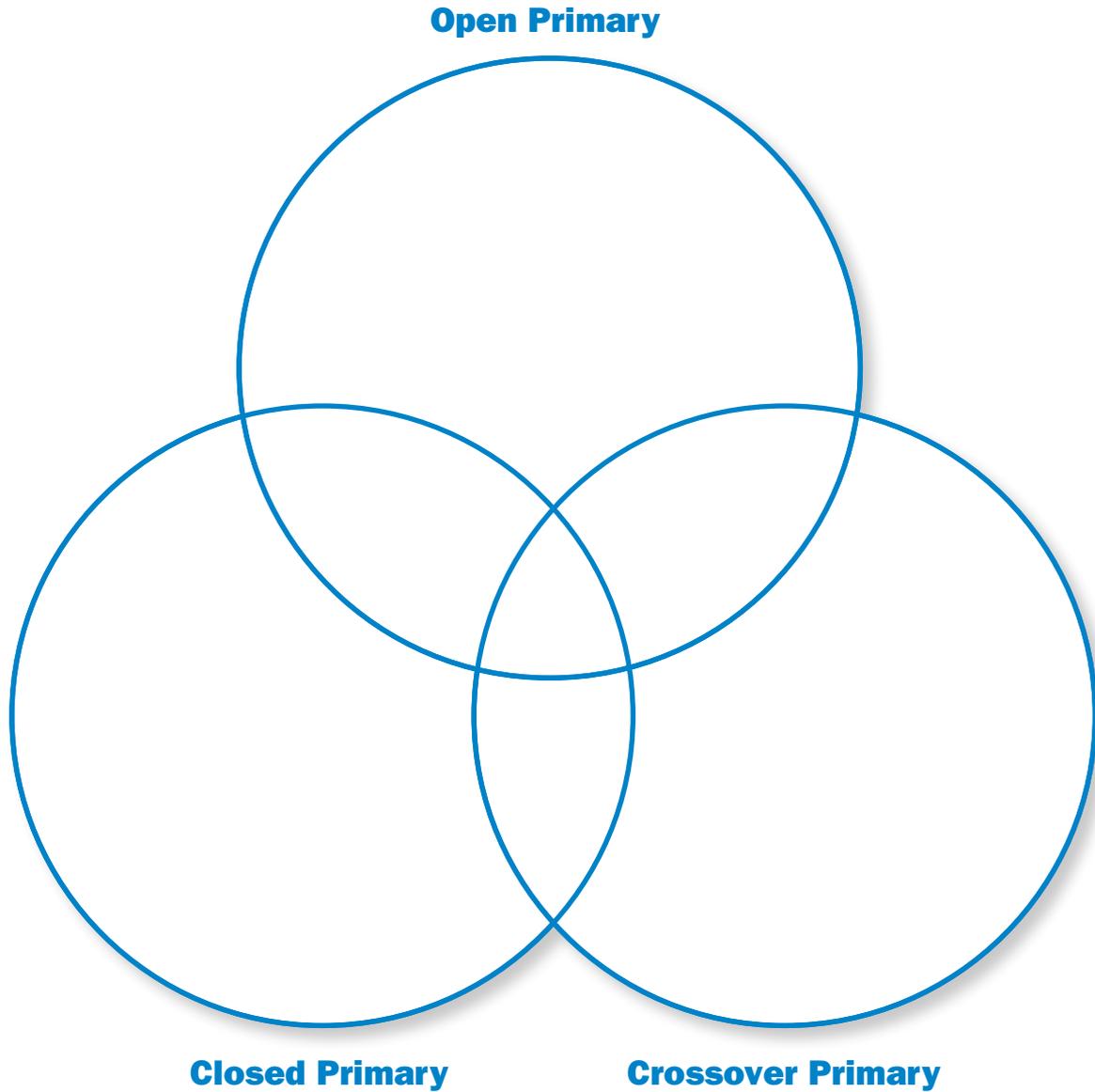
I. The Nomination Process

➔ Find Out

A. Nomination is the process of formally naming candidates to appear on the ballot in an election. It is the first step in the election process, and it is often performed by a political party. Using your print or online textbook or other sources, identify and describe the major methods by which nomination occurs in our system.



B. Today, the direct primary is used to nominate candidates to many high-level offices. Use your print or online textbook or other sources to learn about the different types of primaries. Then use what you have learned to compare and contrast the different types of primaries in the Venn diagram, below.



 **What Do You Think?**

C. Based on the information above, which method of nominating candidates do you think is the most fair? Which is the most effective? Explain your answers.

II. Elections

➔ Find Out

A. There are several different ways in which people in different parts of the United States cast ballots in elections. Use your print or online textbook or other sources to gather information about different methods of casting and counting ballots. Record the information below.

Voting Method	Description

B. There are two main types of ballots in use in the United States today—the party column ballot and the office group ballot. Use your print or online textbook or other sources to identify the pros and cons of each type.

Party Column Ballot	Office Group Ballot
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •

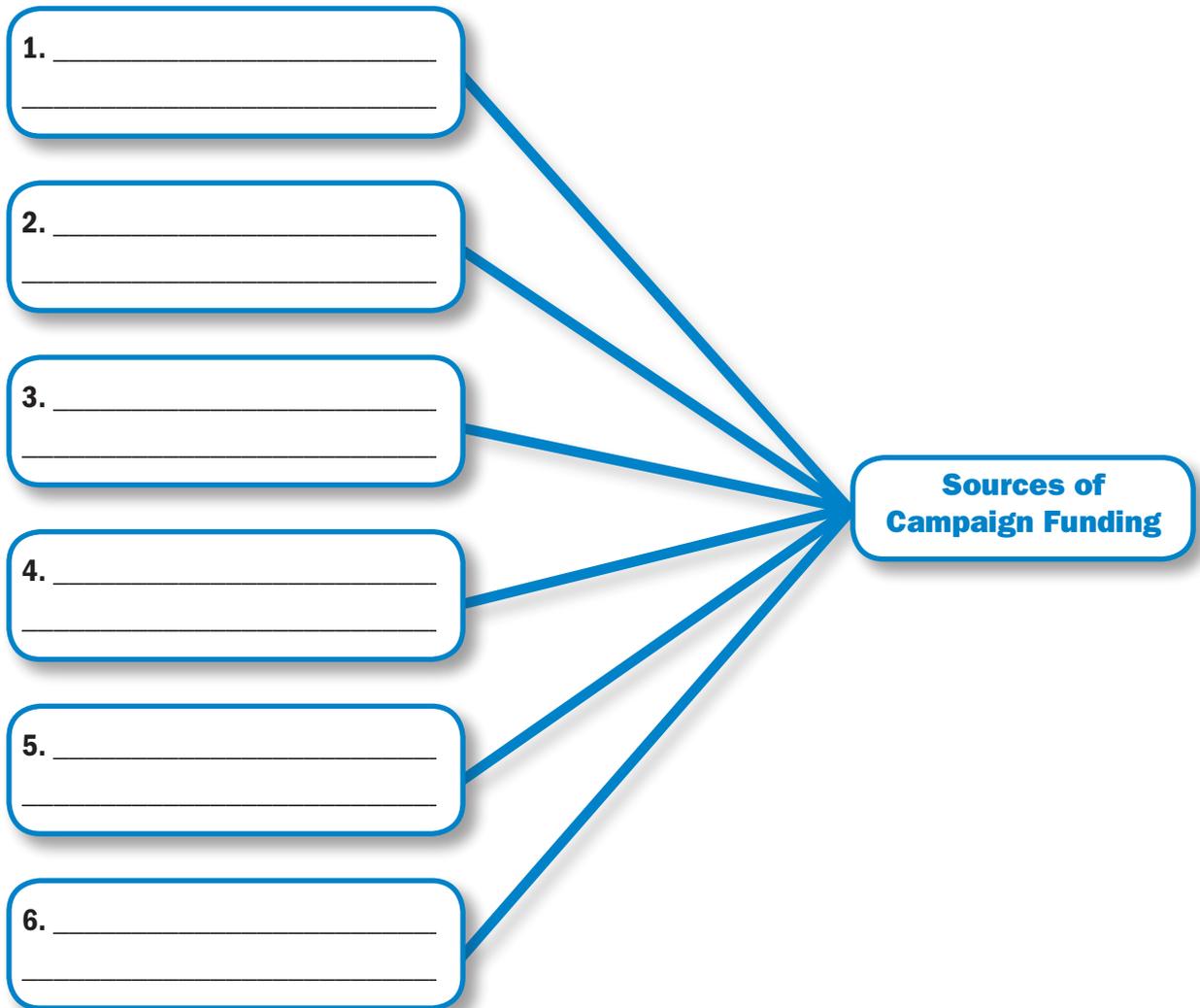
What Do You Think?

C. Based on the information you have gathered, which type of voting method and ballot design do you think is likely to produce the most fair and effective elections? Explain.

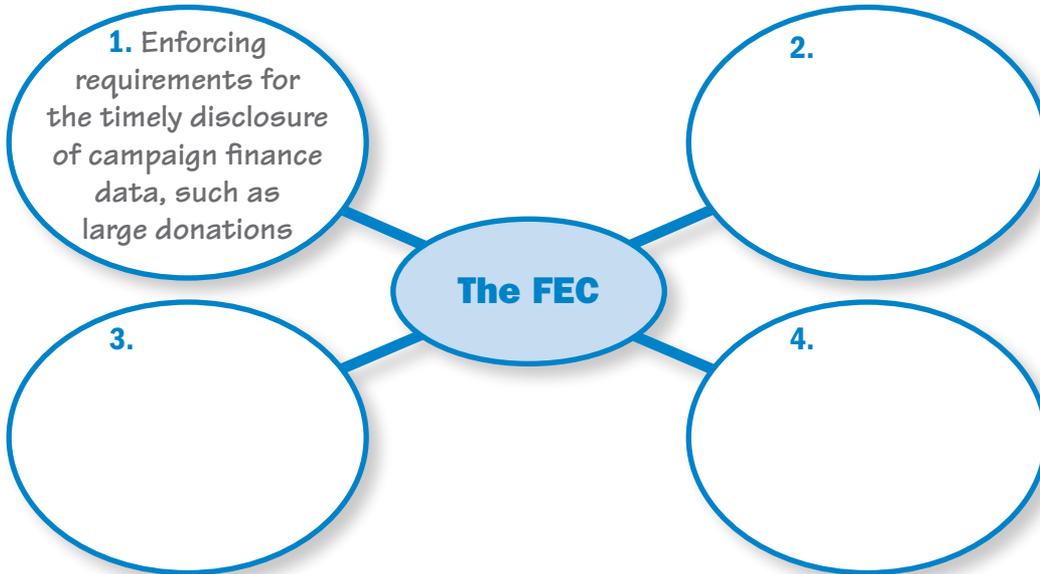
III. Money and Elections

Find Out

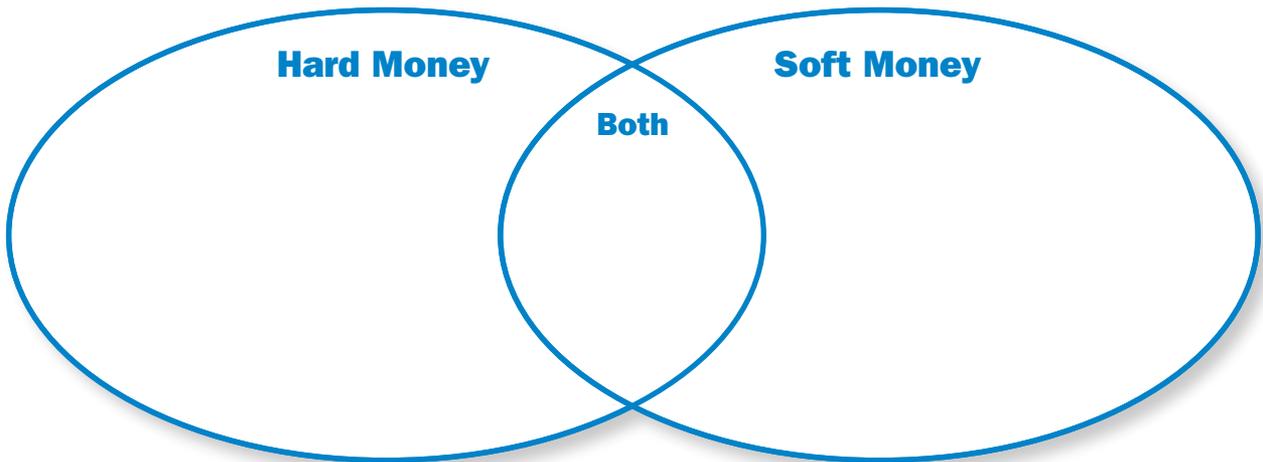
A. Running for office in the United States can be costly. Using your print or online textbook or other sources, read about the sources candidates can draw upon for campaign funding. Record the information you find below.



B. The Federal Election Commission administers federal election law. Use your print or online textbook or other sources to identify the major functions of this organization, and record the information below.



C. Political fundraising involves two broad categories: hard money and soft money. Use your print or online textbook or other sources to compare and contrast these two categories. Record your findings in the Venn diagram below.



What Do You Think?

D. Based on the information you have gathered, think about the role of money in our electoral process. Explain why money is both essential to fair and effective elections and also a threat to them.

Apply What You've Learned Activity

How does the role of money affect the electoral process and what people think about it? Use this worksheet to answer the Apply What You've Learned activity in your print or online textbook. Use the table below to record your thoughts about the specific questions presented.

<p>What is a compelling argument for and against the following statement: Money is an essential part of the electoral process.</p>	
<p>Describe existing efforts to regulate the role of money in elections.</p>	
<p>Identify the main sources of campaign funding and analyze the impact each source has on elections.</p>	
<p>Analyze the potential effects of removing all money from the process, or of removing all regulation of money.</p>	

A. Do you agree or disagree with the statement that money is an essential part of the electoral process? Explain your answer.

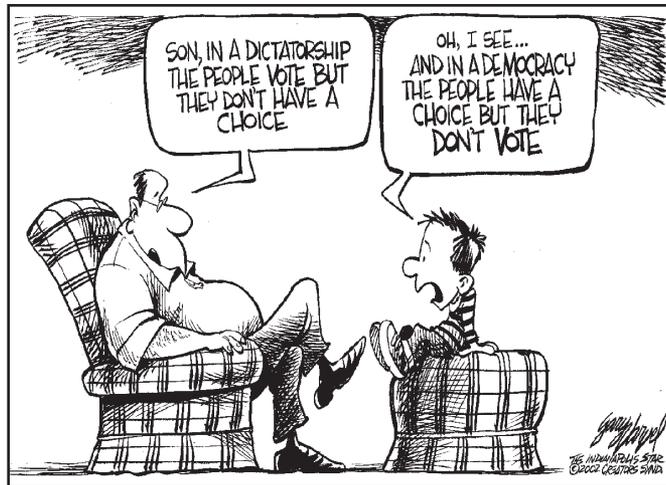
B. Do you think that the fairness of elections and the effectiveness of elections are related? Using your thinking about the role of money in elections, explain how they are similar or different.

Essay



How fair and effective is the electoral process?

Our elections are supposed to express the will of the people. They are supposed to be fair contests that result in effective, responsive government. As you view and read the primary sources below, consider the factors that can impact the fairness and effectiveness of elections.



Since its inception, the FEC has negotiated the tension between the rights of citizens to enter into political debate and discussion and the need to simultaneously safeguard the integrity of the electoral process.

— Federal Election Commission, Thirty-Year Report, September 2005



What Do You Think?

What is your opinion? Write a response to the Essential Question, **How fair and effective is the electoral process?** Consider your thoughts on the information above, the Guiding Questions in your textbook, and the activities you have done in your Journal. See page 219 for a rubric on writing an Essential Question essay.



Don't Forget

Your answer to this question will help you think about the Unit 2 Essential Question: **In what ways should people participate in public affairs?**