



## Lesson Title: Let's Talk About It

### STEP-BY-STEP :

**Journal:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BNJiUu-1E8>

- a) When did Elbridge Gerry draw his district? (1812)
- b) What did one newspaper cartoonist think the district looked like? (salamander)
- c) Based on the video what do you think the following terms mean: GRIDLOCK and DISENFRANCHISEMENT (answers will vary)

Assign students the following vocabulary words before discussing the process of gerrymandering. You may want to direct them to a textbook glossary or assign a vocab quiz:

1. Incumbent
2. Congressional District
3. Legislative District
4. Partisan
5. Electoral
6. Apportionment
7. At-large Elections
8. Single Member District Elections
9. Voting Bloc
10. Contiguous
11. Redistricting
12. Census
13. Bias
14. Constitutionality
15. Statute
16. Voting Rights Act
17. Fourteenth Amendment
18. Federalism
19. State Supreme Court
20. State Legislature

Pass out the Gerrymandering 101 worksheet, to be done in groups or solo.

After reviewing the vocabulary words above watch-- (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pocFJnyR3Q4>) and answer as a class:

- Who draws them in most states? (legislatures)
- What do reformers want to change? (districts drawn free of political interests)
- Why are some people concerned about changing the process? (less accountable)
- Who are minority voters in Pennsylvania? What groups of people? (African American, Hispanic)

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

Who is Listening?

### I HAVE:

One Hour

### TYPES OF ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Vocabulary
- ✓ Worksheet simulation

### MATERIALS:

- [Gerrymandering 101 handout](#)
- Video (projector or smartboard and laptop)
- Glossary or resource for definitions

### KEEP IN MIND:

Point out that Elbridge Gerry pronounced his name with a hard G, but we use a soft G to say the word Gerrymander. You may want to watch this video about the pronunciation of the word gerrymander: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rp0Qz19nlG4>

Depending on what course and level you are teaching, you may want to spend more time explaining certain vocab words (especially federalism)

### IT WENT WELL! EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

The Crash Course Government and Politics series can help build on many of the concepts in the vocab words.

Try the What Do You See lesson in Where Am I?

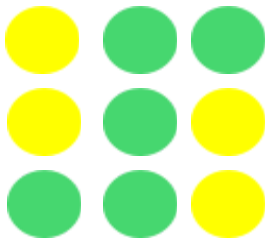


# Draw the Lines

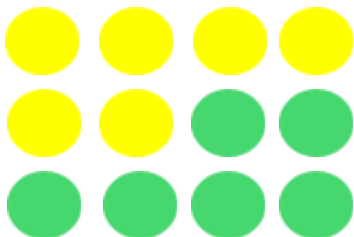
## Gerrymandering 101

You are a political consultant for the Yellow Party, which controls the state's redistricting process. You want to ensure Yellow maintains control, by "packing" and "cracking" the Green Party. **Draw the precincts (dots) into groups to create districts.**

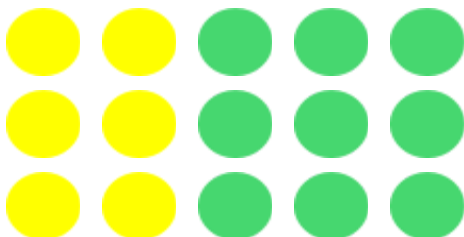
**1)** Create **three districts**, but ensure that the Yellow Party wins two of three (groups of three dots). (Note that Green has more voters, 5-4.)



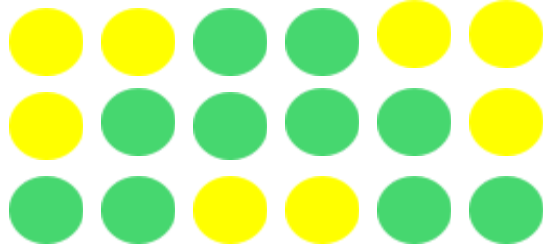
**2)** The state grows to **four districts** (six voters per party). Draw a map where the Yellow Party wins three districts and keeps a majority (groups of three).



**3)** Green Party voters move in and the Yellow Party has fewer voters again (9-6). However, the state loses a district because other states grow even faster. Make sure the Yellow Party keeps its advantage with the state's **three districts** (groups of five).

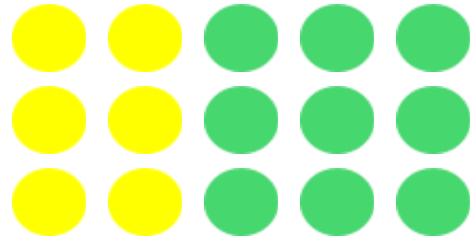


**4)** The Yellow Party remains in the minority (10-8), and now their voters don't live next to each other. The state still has **three districts**. Make sure Yellow Party keeps its majority (groups of six).



**BONUS:** Draw boundaries that yield the following results. This state has **five districts** (groups of three).

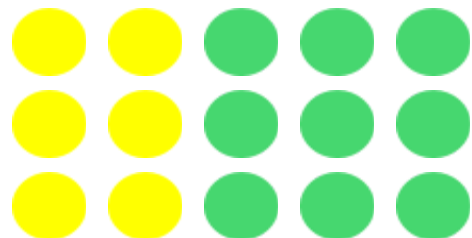
The **Green Party** receives the most advantageous map possible.



How many districts will go yellow? \_\_\_\_\_

How many districts will go green? \_\_\_\_\_

**BONUS:** The **Yellow Party** receives the most advantageous map possible.



How many districts will go yellow? \_\_\_\_\_

How many districts will go green? \_\_\_\_\_