



# AP U.S. Government and Politics

## Gerrymandering Complexities

Leveled Assessment: \_\_\_\_/4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_/5

Directions: Answer the series of questions relating to the process of gerrymandering and connect in the uses of geographers in drawing congressional boundaries.

### Thought Questions:

1. Use the textbook or other available classroom resources to come up with a textbook definition of gerrymandering, and then a definition of your own.

Textbook Definition:

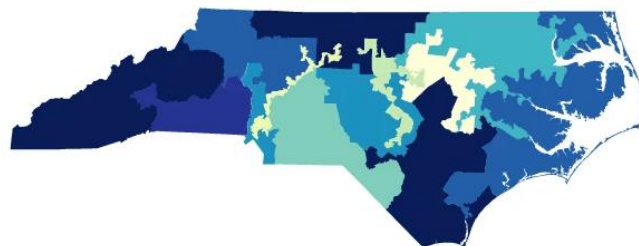
Own Definition:

2. How is the number of congressional districts per state determined?
3. Explain the process states use to actually form congressional districts?

4. Examine the two maps to the right of the voting districts in North Carolina. The map on the top is the current voting districts, the map on the bottom is a proposed redrawn distribution that would optimize compactness and maintain equal population of districts. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each map?

#### North Carolina

CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



DISTRICTS REDRAWN TO OPTIMIZE COMPACTNESS

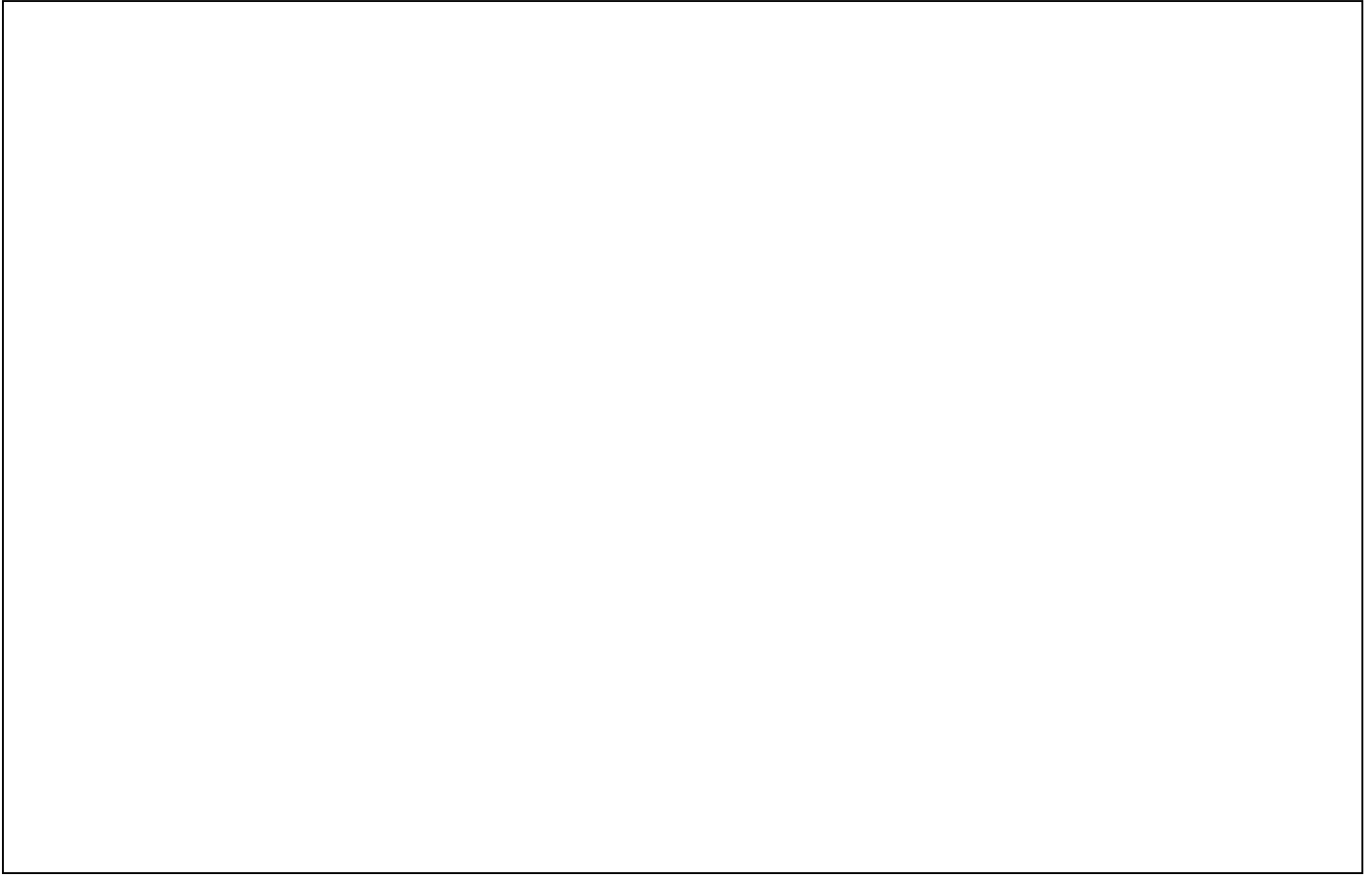


SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau (top), Brian Olson (bottom)  
GRAPHIC: The Washington Post, Published June 3, 2014

Comparing Congressional Districts	
Gerrymandered	Optimized
Advantage	Advantage
Disadvantage	Disadvantage

5. Explain the argument for doing away with gerrymandering, and why it might not be so easy to simply do away with the practice?

6. On a laptop open up the Re-Districting game (linked on the course website) and watch the introduction video. After watching the video play Mission 1: Fundamentalist (Basic) and attempt to create 4 districts with fairly equal population that allows your party to stay in power.
  - a. Draw and label the map of the districts you created in the space below.



- b. Did your proposed districts pass the following checks (Yes/No)  
State Legislature:  
  
Governor:  
  
Courts:
    - c. What will be the impact of your districts?