



**SETON**

EDUCATION PARTNERS

**Achieve 3000 Note Taker**

**Article Title:** The First Contest was No Contest

**Name:** Emily

**Date:** 11/19/2015

**Before Reading Test**

**Question:** "A system that has been in use for hundreds of  
(Write out the question) Years should not be changed."

☒ Agree

☐ Disagree

**Briefly explain WHY:** I agree. If a system has been around for hundreds of years, why would we think it would be a good time to change it now? If it wasn't working, someone would have already fixed it.

**Vocabulary**

**Write out the word and definition given.**

vest - to give someone control of something (not what you wear with a suit)

icon - Something or someone widely recognized and greatly admired

Words I already know

ratify - to give formal approval for something



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**Setting the Purpose NOTES:**

Write out ideas, concepts, events, vocabulary, and other important facts from the article. This information will be placed into your thought question for you to expand upon.

- 1<sup>st</sup> election was unique
- Washington did not want to be president → had a "duty" → committed to justice
- Why? Electoral college was because founders don't trust citizens. We vote for electoral voters → they vote for president
  - ↳ was a compromise. → Could have been congress voting
- Problems: Candidates can only focus on big states
- Pros: Can't just focus on population centers
- Today candidates come from political parties → In 1780, there were none
- Similar to today: Electoral votes
- Different: Electoral voters cast two votes
  - ↳ 1<sup>st</sup> = President
  - ↳ 2<sup>nd</sup> = Vice President

Today, most states are winner take all votes

Total of 538 electoral votes  
Amendment so president & vice president run together

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**Activity Score**

1st Try 79%

2nd Try 100%

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**After Reading Poll**

- ☐ Agree  
☒ Disagree

Did you change your mind? Why or why not?

After reading, I changed my mind. When thinking in general, we should always be trying to make things better. I connect it to "seeking intellectual excellence" just like with the electoral college we should always be working to get better.



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**Thought Question:**

Write out the sentences given and question(s). Then read through **INCLUDE IN YOUR ANSWER** so you know how long of an answer is required and other information that should be included in your answer. Use the space below to prewrite your answer.

Question: Compare and contrast the US Electoral College used today to the system used in 1789. Why and how has the system changed?

While the US Electoral college system first used in 1789 and our current system are both rooted in the Constitution they do have some significant differences. In the article, both systems have American voters using their vote to select electoral voters. These electoral voters then cast 538 votes for president. In 1789, however, the electoral voters actually voted twice. The candidate with the second most votes became Vice President. This means that the two offices came from rival parties. As a result, of the two offices being in conflict, a constitutional amendment was drafted, resulting in the president and vice president running together for the executive office. The Electoral College still isn't perfect as opponents say it ignores states with small populations. The US Electoral College has changed throughout history, but it is still evolving to best suit the needs of American democracy.