

Chapter 13: The Presidency

Opener
Lecture Notes

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

PEARSON

In the **scheme** of our national **government**, the **presidency**
is **preeminently** the **people's office**.

—President Grover Cleveland, 1900



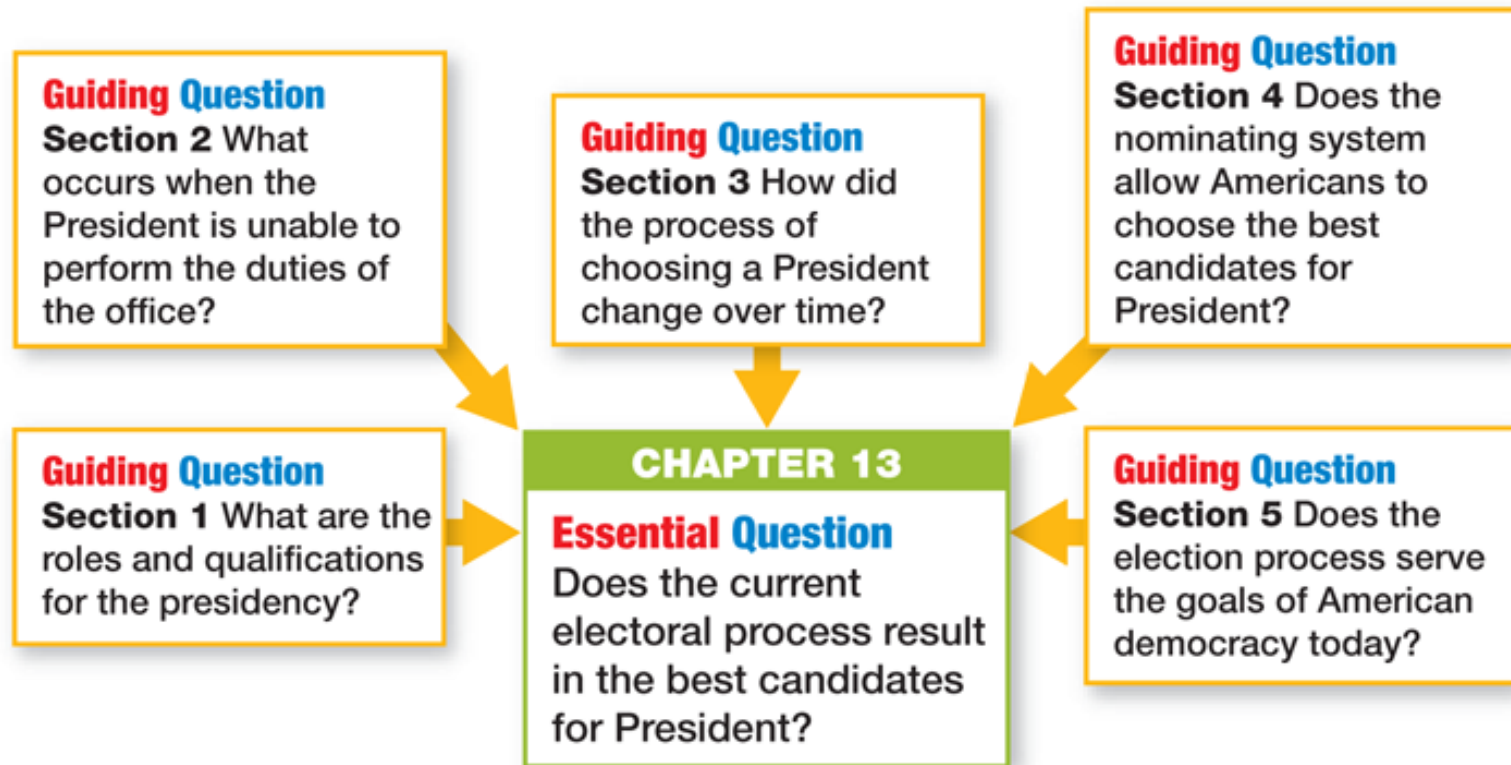
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Photo: Citizens of Chillicothe, Ohio, greet presidential candidate Barack Obama
in 2008.

► Essential Question

- Does the current electoral process result in the best candidates for President?



▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 1: The President's Job Description
 - What are the roles and qualifications of the office of the President?
 - The President's roles include chief of state, chief executive, chief administrator, chief diplomat, commander in chief, chief legislator, and chief citizen.
 - Qualifications for President include being 35 years old, a natural born U.S. citizen, and having lived in the United States for 14 years.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 2: Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency
 - What occurs when the President is unable to perform the duties of the office?
 - If a President dies, resigns, or is removed by impeachment, the Vice President succeeds to the presidency. The Vice President also assumes the role of Acting President if the President is temporarily incapacitated.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 3: Presidential Selection: The Framers' Plan
 - How did the process of choosing a President change over time?
 - The 12th Amendment replaced the old system of electors casting two votes for two different presidential candidates with electors casting separate votes for President and Vice President.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 4: Presidential Nominations
 - Does the nominating system allow Americans to choose the best candidates for President?
 - Opinions differ, as the presidential primary system forces candidates to prove their ability to withstand challenges but does not necessarily place the greatest priority on political skills.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 5: The Presidential Election
 - Does the election process serve the goals of American democracy today?
 - This question is widely debated. Opponents argue that the current process does not always give victory to the winner of the popular vote. Supporters believe that the electoral system is reliable and preserves the influence of individual states.