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*Innumeracy and politics: Voting, Electoral College, and  
other mathematical ways we fail at democracy*

**Post-lecture Discussion Guide**

1. Why is it that practices like plurality voting and single-member Congressional districts are so problematic now? Haven't we been using them for hundreds of years? What is different about this moment in our political history?
2. What do you think a "fair" voting process should mean? Try to look up some definition of fairness. Is there a definite, rigorous, universally agreed-upon way to define it?
3. The ratio of people per member of the U.S. House of Representatives is about 760,000. Is it reasonable that one person would represent 760,000 people on average? One way to remedy this would be to increase the House size from 435 (an arbitrary number we've been stuck with for the last 100 years) to something bigger. What are some advantages and disadvantages of doing this? How big should the House be in your opinion?

4. One potential solution for resolving many of our polarization and representation issues would be to establish multi-member districts instead of the single-member ones that we currently have. Under this plan, there would be fewer, bigger districts, and several candidates would be elected in each. A voter in such a district would therefore not vote to elect one, but several candidates. How do you think the political landscape would change if we had such districts? Would this help increase the diversity of parties and candidates in our politics? Would gerrymandering still be an issue?
5. If you were a presidential candidate, how would you campaign differently if popular vote was used instead of the Electoral College? What might be some disadvantages of using the popular vote to elect the president?
6. Bonus fun question: What is the minimum number of votes needed to win the U.S. presidential election? (Hint: This question has a surprising answer because you're allowed to assume an extremely hypothetical scenario.)