Electoral College Visualization Usability Testing Script

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| Tester |  |
| ~~Victim~~ Test Subject |  |
| Date |  |
| Time |  |
| Duration |  |

# Introduction

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the usability and effectiveness of the visualization you are about to see. It is not testing *you* in any way. Negative feedback is both welcomed and encouraged!

The session will be recorded, but the recording itself will not be published. The purpose of the recording is for the person conducting the test to review the recording later to take more detailed notes. As such, we do not need a documented consent form, but we do need your verbal acknowledgement of the recording.

We can stop at any time for any reason. Take as much or as little time as you like for any task.

As you work through the questions below, please think out loud about what questions you may have at that moment, what might be unclear or difficult, or any observations you may have.

# Pre-evaluation questions

1. In your own words, what is the Electoral College?
2. Do you have any opinion(s) about the Electoral College? If so, please share them.

# Intro to the Vis

Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the visualization. Feel free to click anywhere and see what information is available by hovering the mouse over various items.

# Usability Test

1. How many Electors does your home state have as of 2016?
2. How many Electors did your state have in 1980?
3. What was the popular vote margin in your state in 2004?
4. Looking at the Election Results map for any year, describe what the three different state colors represent.
5. Which states had the highest and lowest voter power in 2008?
6. Since 1980, which years would have had different election results under a popular vote system?
7. Navigate to your state legislature’s webpage

# Debrief

1. In your own words, what is “voter power”?
2. Do you feel like you understand any more about the Electoral College than you did initially?
3. Do you feel any differently now about the Electoral College than you did initially?
4. Did this visualization raise any questions for you that remain unanswered?

# Thank you for your participation!