

1. What is gerrymandering exactly and why does this institution exist?

Gerrymandering is when a district can be drawn by a political party to gain an advantage over an opposing political party.

2. why does this institution exist?

This practice exists because of the famous case in Massachusetts in 1812. The Governor at the time, Elbridge Gerry, drew a district map that looked like a salamander, so they called it Gerrymandering. He did this so he could make districts in his favor. This also exists because no matter what political party you are referring to they will all do something to get an advantage.

3. Provide a brief history of the institution of gerrymandering:

The most famous and first case of gerrymandering dates back to 1812 when the Governor at the time, Elbridge Gerry, drew a district map that looked like a salamander and would impact the results of each district. In addition, in 2019 a major court case was held in North Carolina for gerrymandering. Also, one of the biggest cases was in 2017 through 2018 and was called Benisek vs. Lamone. These cases are somewhat not "newsworthy" for people it doesn't impact because many people don't know that there have been well more than 20 cases so far. In the last decade, there has been an increase in gerrymandering cases for a few main reasons. The first is that the courts are more aware of the practice, and can distinguish between fair and unfair. Second, the increase in population means that districts have to be changed, so there are many opportunities for more gerrymandering. Lastly, the only reason that there are more gerrymandering cases is because, now people are more aware and knowledgeable to determine what is and isn't gerrymandering.

- a. Multiple specific examples of known gerrymandering with an analysis of how often and different ways it can occur.
- b. This will include historical data about gerrymandering.
 - i. Number of cases of "exposed" gerrymandering by decade.
- c. This will include an explanation for why the numbers trend. For example:
 - i. Why has there been a sudden increase in gerrymandering cases heard by the US Supreme Court in the last decade? Does it mean that there has been more gerrymandering happening or is it something else?

4. Provide controversies and challenges surrounding gerrymandering:

The main problem or controversy with this practice is that it gives any political party the opportunity to guarantee their control over a certain state or district in an unfair way. It is also controversial because it can change the result of state government elections. In addition, it also impacts our rights as a citizen. It does this because the right to a free and fair election is being infringed upon because if I am a Republican and the Democrats draw up a district map that groups me with more way more Democrats, then my voice as a voter isn't heard because they are a supermajority. This is why many voters hate this practice and protest to stop it. In addition, in 2019 a major court case was held in North Carolina for gerrymandering. The Supreme Court ruled that they

couldn't get involved, so the Federal Courts took the case instead. The result of the case is that the Constitutional Rights of the citizens were being violated, and the court got rid of the district maps.

- a. This includes problems with it, why people don't like it, and major court cases involving gerrymandering and redistricting.

5. Solutions & Recommendations:

There are many solutions for gerrymandering, and they are all very simple. The first is to have a nonpartisan trusted individual like the Speaker of the House, and they can draw up the map, but if it gives an advantage to any party it will be revised until it is equal for all. Or you could just leave the districts as the counties for each state which would keep any party from infringing on citizen's rights. In addition, I believe that if we try any of these potential solutions or any like them then we will have an equal voting process because there will be no opportunity for a party to infringe on the maps. Lastly, if the people who gerrymander actually cared about this country wouldn't gerrymander, because it would violate the rights of the citizens to have a free and fair election, which if you were to violate that then you would also violate the 1st Amendment.

- a. This will include any proposals to fix the problems with gerrymandering AND your recommendation for which solution should be selected, if any, and WHY.