

I watched the talk titled Manipulation, Lies, and Elections. It was interesting to hear about the math behind voting in the United States and the majority vote versus the plurality vote. We learned about how often times, the candidate that wins isn't the one that the majority of people want. The Hare Method or the Instant Run-off Method allows for the worst candidate to be taken off the ballot, which may be preferable over plurality because it allows for preferences of individuals to show through a bit more. The goal is to let the true preference of the people show through and result in this candidate winning.

We also learned about Point Methods, which is based on giving each individual candidate points in their own individual race and adding up those points at the end to see who wins. The voters rank the candidates, and each rank is assigned a different number of points. This is interesting because the candidates would want to be favored by everyone, so that they can at least be slightly higher up on the list. I think I like this method the best. I didn't notice a whole lot about it relating to content in our course. I think this topic is important for politics because math is used to try to show through people's preferences the best. It affects the future of the country.