# Stylized Redistricting Game, Part 4

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We will work with a stylized polity map, shown on page 2. In this polity there are $8 \times 8 = 64$ basic areal units, called blocks or cells. Assume that each block is equal in population to the others. The blocks are marked D or R, for whether there are Democratic party or Republican party majorities in them. As you can verify, there are 34 Democratic party majority blocks and 30 Republican party majority blocks.

You are to come up with a legally valid redistricting plan, consisting of 8 districts of 8 contiguous blocks each. Point contiguity is permitted. In addition to the partisan makeup of the blocks, we are concerned in this exercise with communities of interest. In particular, there are six blocks present having a majority of a protected community of interest. Think: African Americans and the Voting Rights Act. These blocks are indicated with ***italic bold face type*** and are all blocks with Democratic party majorities. Further, your team has been assigned to propose a redistricting plan to a neutral, non-partisan commission, which will do its best to choose a plan that is in the public interest and that is fair to this identified community of interest.

Using the Excel file *HandoutMap.xlsx* as the source for the polity map, you show indicate your 8 districts clearly on a copy of the *HandoutMap.xlsx* file. You might use coloring to indicate the districts, or outlining (bolding the borders, e.g.). You can also use the coordinate naming scheme described below. Whatever you do please include a key so your choices are clear. Finally, your team should write up a 400 word essay (no longer, shorter is OK) arguing why your proposal is indeed valid and fair. Hand everything (Excel file plus essay file) in on Canvas.

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Print your team member names here:

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\* \* \*

What is the composition of your plan?

- Number of Democratic majority districts: ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯

- Number of Republican majority districts: ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯

- Number of party balanced districts: ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | R | R | R | D | D | D | D |
| R | R | R | R | D | D | D | D |
| R | D | D | D | D | D | D | R |
| R | R | R | D | D | D | R | R |
| R | R | R | R | R | R | R | R |
| D | D | D | R | D | D | R | D |
| D | R | R | R | D | D | R | D |
| D | D | D | D | D | D | R | D |

Note: We can refer to the blocks with a 2-D coordinate scheme. Let the lower left-hand corner block be (8,1), the upper right-hand corner block be (1,8), the upper left-hand block be (1,1), the lower right-hand block be (8,8), and the other blocks identified similarly.