*QUESTIONS*

1. Answer the hypothetical questions posed by political scientist Walter Lippman on page 281 and comment on his ideas:

*We call an election an expression of popular will. But is it? We go into a polling booth and mark a cross on a piece of paper for one of two, or perhaps three or four names. Have we expressed our thoughts on the public policy of the United States? Presumably we have a number of thoughts on this and that with many buts and ifs and ors. Surely the cross on a piece of paper does not express them.*

1. Imagine the United States did not have an electoral process; describe what it would be like.
2. Discuss the two ways to “get something” on a state ballot.
3. Consider the statement: *Besides, campaigning was considered below the dignity of the presidential office.*
4. Comment on the Aaron Burr and Thomas Jefferson “debacle” of 1796.
5. Discuss the impact of William Jennings Bryan on the overall American political schema.
6. Read [*Bush v. Gore*](http://supreme.justia.com/us/531/98/), 531 U.S. 98 (2000) and comment on the political philosophy used.
7. Discuss Figure 10.1 on page 286 and its implications on the 2012 election.
8. There is a brief statement about how there are some immigrant groups—note that does not state “illegal” or “undocumented”—who want local elections open to non-citizens; what are your thoughts?
9. After reading the entire section “Deciding Whether to Vote,” write about why you are going to vote, why adults you know vote or do not, and guess as to why some choose not to vote.
10. Discuss the correlation, if any, political efficacy and ideals of civic duty have.
11. Do you think the subsection “Why Turnout in the United States Is So Low Compared to Other Countries” answers the question?
12. Take both sides of the argument from page 290 in “Registering and Voting by E-mail.”
13. Many political candidates wishing to appear “popular” attempt to attract the so-called “youth vote;” is that realistic?
14. What does Table 10.2 tell us about modern American politics?
15. Should the Electoral College still exist?