*QUESTIONS*

1. Immediately in this chapter, there is an interesting discussion of theoretical politics:

*The current American style of long and arduous campaigns has evolved from the belief of reformers that the cure for the problems of democracy is more democracy.... Some scholars believe it is important that presidential candidates go through a long and difficult trial by fire. Others, however, worry that the system makes it too difficult for politicians with other responsibilities—such as incumbent governors and senior senators—to take a run at the White House.*

Comment on the ideas held in that passage.

1. Discuss, compare, and contrast caucuses and primaries in American politics.
2. What was your reaction to the photograph on page 258?
3. Comment on the [figure](http://goo.gl/zvjai) showing the United States shaped by campaign spending in 2004.
4. Discuss what the text calls “the most important” criticisms of marathon campaigns.
5. Answer the questions posed at the end of the small discussion on page 261 entitled “National and Regional Presidential Primary Proposals:”
   1. Do the advantages of the reform proposals outweigh the disadvantages?
   2. Would any of them represent an improvement over the current system?
6. Figure 9.1 and its subsequent comment seem to claim because there are now more caucuses and primaries, there is little suspense in national party conventions and, so, television viewership has fallen; do you “buy” that explanation for the dropping watchers?
7. The text has a very broad discussion of party platforms, but you—since you've read both the Democratic and Republican party platforms already—have a much firmer understanding. Comment on both platforms, paying close attention to how they differ.
8. Discuss the concept of campaigning and what it means for modern American candidates.
9. In the section on organizing campaigns, is there anything you think is missing from the list of “should have's?”
10. Answer the questions posed in “Declining Interest in Working in Campaigns:”
    1. Might the decline in interest in campaign work be because today's young people are focusing on nonpolitical forms of political action?
    2. Do you think that one reason young people may not be very interested in working in campaigns may be that the issues discussed in recent campaigns aren't of much interest to them? If so, what sort of issues might stimulate more young people to sign-up for campaign work?
    3. If more young people were to volunteer for work in campaigns, what difference might it make? Do you think the tenor of recent campaigns would have been changed if more young people had been involved?
11. After reading about campaign financing and reviewing your understanding of *Buckley v. Valeo*, comment on what you think of the modern structure of financing for political campaigns.
12. Using [OpenSecrets](http://www.opensecrets.org/), discuss the importance of transparency in modern political fundraising.
13. What role do and/or should 527 groups play in American politics? Check-out the actual [U.S. Code](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/26/527.html).
14. Comment on Table 9.1 and its numbers about political action committees.
15. Answer the question on page 272: *Are campaigns too expensive?*
16. Discuss selective perception.
17. Answer the question on page 275: *Are nominations and campaigns too democratic?*