**The Electoral College: Winning the Electoral College—ANSWER KEY**

Answer the following questions based upon your analysis of past elections. Use the resources and/or links provided.

1. Since 2000, what are five “safe” Republican states?

Possible options: Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Alaska, Iowa

2. Since 2000, what are five “safe” Democratic states?

Possible options: Washington, Oregon, California, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Rhode Island, Delaware, Hawaii, Connecticut, New Jersey, Vermont, District of Columbia (although not technically a state, it receives 3 electoral votes)

3. Since 2000, what are five states that appear to be “swing” states?

Possible options: Florida, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, Colorado, New Mexico, Indiana, Nevada, New Hampshire (students may include this one due to the 2000 vote).

4. Based upon your research, is Iowa a red, blue or swing state? What is the historical justification for your response?

Swing state; answers will vary

Justification will focus on state electoral results that have gone both Democratic and Republican since 2000 (2000-D; 2004-R; 2008-D; 2012-D); students may also address the close popular vote, or earlier election results.

5. What swing state seems to be needed for ultimate victory? Why do you think so?

Likely responses will discuss Ohio or possible Florida; answers will very

6. If all fifty states were in play (swing states) in the next election, what is the fewest amount of states you would need to win for victory in the Electoral College?

12 states: California, Texas, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Virginia, any other state will put it over 270

7. Is it possible to have an election (with only the two major parties receiving electoral votes) that results in a tie or with no candidate receiving the needed 270 electoral votes? Create a map online or on the blank map provided and explain your findings.

Yes.

One possibility example:

Red states-Alaska, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, New Hampshire=269 electors

Blue states: Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, West Virginia=266