Positives

* Results are certain
* Discourages 3rd parties
* No need to recount votes (most of the time)
* Candidates forced to campaign in ALL parts of the country
* Small states are still important

Negatives with corrections (if applicable)

* Candidate can lose popular and still win election- add 100 electoral votes to candidate that won popular vote
* Discourages 3rd parties
* Devalues states that support losing candidate (especially states like California, Texas, New York)
* It’s based on a system that might have been necessary at the time it was created, but is considered “out-of-date” today (if all Americans had amnesia and forgot how we elect the president and vice president, we would never think of this system again!)
* It allows for “faithless”/”defector” electors- eliminate human electors; keep the numbers
* Gives a large amount of power to “swing states” (Ohio and Florida being big ones!)

7th grade Social Studies name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Positives and negatives chart

Electoral College

Positives Negatives (with corrections if applicable)

**Procedures**

This lesson uses class time and group work. The number of students in a group can depend on the number of computers available.  
  
1. The teacher will give an overview of the role of Yellow Journalism in the Spanish-American War.  
  
2. The teacher will assign a date in 1898 to each group that relates to events of the Spanish-American War. The students will recreate a probable headline and newspaper from the date assigned by the teacher.   
  
A. February 24, 1895   
B. February 16, 1896   
C. February 9, 1898   
D. February 15, 1898   
E. April 23, 1898   
F. April 25, 1898   
G. May 1, 1898   
H. July 1, 1898   
I. August 9, 1898   
J. February 6, 1899   
  
3. The students work in groups at the computer to find information with pictures OR political cartoons from the Internet or other reference books to create their newspapers from a given date in 1898.  
  
4. The teacher can use software that they have. (Examples: Microsoft Word, PageMaker)  
  
5. The students:  
  
A. Create a name for the newspaper.  
B. Create a headline for the important event.  
C. Have one main article that relates to the event in the headline.  
D. Have at least two pictures with annotations.

Note: The use of Yellow Journalism is REALLY important for this assignment; you want to exaggerate the details as much as you can!