

## Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

STORY

### **Nation Awaits History-making Election Day**

10/30/08

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/july-dec08/election\\_10-31.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/july-dec08/election_10-31.html)

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is early voting? How many states have early voting?
2. How many people have early voted? Is this an increase or decrease?
3. What would voters want to vote early?
4. Why do candidates want people to vote early?
5. What are some of the problems that voters have already experienced?
6. Why is the NAACP suing Democratic Virginia Governor Tim Kaine?
7. What is the Electoral College and how many votes are there in total?
8. Name 5 of the hottest battleground states.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Do you think early voting is a good idea? Why or why not?**

**2. Election Day is not a federal holiday, do you think it should be? Why or why not?**

**3. Do you think the Electoral College is a good balance of power?**

**4. Research what states were battleground states in 2000 and 2004. Are they different than this year's battleground states? Why do you think that is?**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra ([extra@newshour.org](mailto:extra@newshour.org)). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.