

US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS #1 and #2

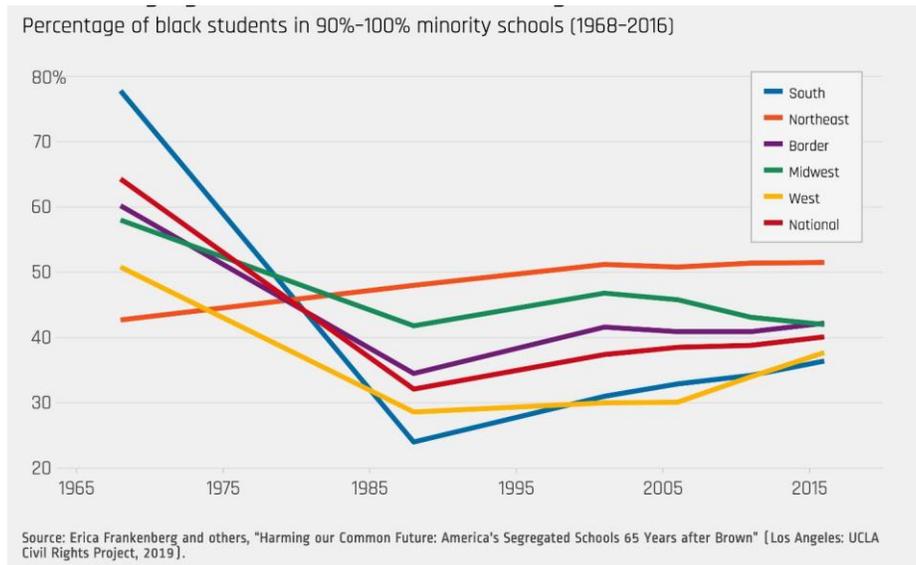
1. “As frustrations mount over opposition to President Joe Biden’s legislative agenda, more Democrats are getting on board with ending the filibuster, and if Democrats were to gut the Senate rule, Republicans’ final attempt to delay partisan legislation could be to not show up to work . . . moving Biden's agenda through the Senate won't be an easy task, reigniting talk of ending the filibuster. That would put Democrats in a position of passing legislation without Republican support, but it could come back to haunt them and require them to force senators to come to the floor for votes. . . . Before the Senate can start conducting its business, the Constitution says, a quorum of 51 senators must be present.” [The Republicans currently hold 50 seats].

[---Newsweek, March 24, 2021](#)

- A. Describe an action the Senate could take to address the scenario.
- B. In the context of the scenario, explain how future elections could impact the scenario.
- C. Explain why the quorum rule is essential to representative democracy.

- A. Describe an action the Senate could take to address the scenario.
 - a. Could prevent the filibuster/abandon/Alter the cloture vote
 - b. Could lower the cloture/filibuster standard below 50 votes but above 51
 - c. Could persuade moderate Democrat(s) toward their agenda/exercise bipartisanship
 - d. Could convince public (national/state) to pressure Republican Senators to attend /vote with Democrats
- B. In the context of the scenario, explain how future elections could impact the scenario.
 - a. Different party might hold majority/control Senate/”shoe on other foot”
 - b. Voters may send a message/electoral mandate on the issue/scenario
 - c. Members could lose/win their individual elections
 - d. Legislative agenda could change
 - e. Presidential election could impact/change VP’s position as tiebreaker
- C. Explain why the quorum rule is essential to representative democracy.
 - a. The quorum rule requires a majority present in Senate (or House) to do business/pass law in order to assure at least half the states/country represented.

Black Students Attending Black Schools



2. Use the line graph to answer the following questions.

- Identify the region with the least variance in black students attending predominantly black schools.
- Describe a similarity or difference in the percentage of black students enrolled in predominantly-minority schools.
- Identify one federal policy and explain how that policy may have caused this similarity or difference.
- Explain one additional factor that may have contributed to the change in racial makeup of student enrollments.

- A. Identify the region with the least variance in percent of black students attending predominantly black schools.
- Northeast
- B. Describe a similarity or difference in black enrollments in predominantly-minority schools.
- Similarities: A common dip/turning point was after 1985, near 1988. Five of the six regions had parallel shifts/patterns in the percentage of blacks attending with mostly black/minority students.
 - Differences: The South had a steeper decline in black students attending with mostly black students 1965—1985 than the others. The Northeast had an increase in black students attending with mostly black students over the period while none others did.
- C. Identify one federal policy and explain how that policy may have caused this similarity or difference.
- *Brown v. Board*: ordered segregated states to desegregate schools
 - Subsequent cases (Little Rock, *Swann*, etc.) further desegregated, or sanctioned/encouraged enrollment ratios
 - 1964 Civil Rights Act: withheld federal funds for schools not meeting satisfactory racial integration levels
 - 14th Amendment/equal protection clause: Interpreted/applied
- D. Explain one additional factor that may have contributed to the change in racial makeup of student enrollments.
- White flight/Private School movement
 - Busing
 - Media's attention to the issue
 - Individual/federal court orders/lifting of orders
 - Change in public opinion toward the issue