

# SPRINGBOK



In class we have discussed three apportionment methods: Hamilton, Jefferson, and Webster, each with their pros and cons. However, none of these methods are widely used today. You will investigate the method South Africa uses to determine how many seats each political party receives in the National Assembly. Note that the South African apportionment method allocates seats to political parties instead of to states, but the same principles apply. I suggest the following resources:

- Summary of the South African apportionment method  
<https://docs.google.com/a/sch.org/document/d/10Qi7dTifsjl73jb28PzMriTzCrZTzKx7ju94zCUyjU4/edit#>
- Detailed description and calculation of the South African apportionment method  
<http://electionresources.org/za/system/#ASSEMBLY>

*You will be asked to produce a written report and present your findings to the class.*

**Due Date:** 12/10/2014

**Point Value:** 30 points

## Report

**Calculations:** Create a spreadsheet that can calculate the apportionments using the three methods discussed in class. Test your spreadsheet against the apportionments we calculated by hand. In a separate tab, create a spreadsheet that can calculate the South African apportionment. Test your spreadsheet against the results of the 2004, 2009, and 2014 elections. Submit this spreadsheet in electronic form along with your written report.

### Questions:

1. The Inkatha Freedom Party and the National Freedom Party are considering a merge. They will combine their votes with the hope of receiving more total seats in the National Assembly. Is this a good idea?
2. Al Jamah-ah is the party with most votes which did not receive a vote in the house. How many votes does Al Jamah-ah need to take so that they have one seat? Who ends up losing a seat?
3. The African National Congress is disqualified from the election and the votes they received no longer count. How many seats does each party now receive?
4. Apply the South African apportionment method to the United States Congress. What considerations are important when allocating seats to political parties as opposed to states?

## Presentation

You must give a three minute presentation to the class describing your findings. Your report should summarize how the South African apportionment method works. In addition, you should show how you answered two of the questions above (#4 and one other question). You will not have time to try to answer all of them in your presentation.