Book chapter discussion

Part I: Jigsaw read and reflect.

Based on your cohort, read the following chapter from the forthcoming book, *Political Geometry*:
- Cohorts A and B: "Census, GIS, and Redistricting."
- Cohorts C, D, and E: "Making Maps: A Practitioners' Perspective."

As you're reading, post a short reflection or question on the piece to Slack: something you'd like to discuss more, something you didn't understand, something you agree/disagree with, something surprising, a memorable quote, etc. It shouldn't be more than a few sentences.

Part II: Answer the following questions (40m)

Cohorts A and B questions:
1. General: what are the most important points from this chapter that you want to get across to the other group?
2. How is the Decennial Census different from the American Community Survey?
3. What are some limitations of the Census? How might these matter in districting?
4. What are VTDs and how are they different from precincts?
5. Based on your knowledge of GIS and mapping, what else, if anything, would you put in the definition of GIS?
6. What is an example of a top-down state in terms of precincts/election administration? A bottom-up state? How are they different?
7. Why is it so difficult to accurately map election results at the precinct level?

Cohorts, C, D, and E questions:
1. General: what are the most important points from this chapter that you want to get across to the other group?
2. What kinds of data are used by mapmakers? Where do the data come from?
3. How do the redistricting criteria of population balance, contiguity, compactness, and preserving communities of interest matter in practice?
4. What are some reasons that counties or cities might be split in a district? What are some reasons that they would be kept intact?

5. What is nesting, and what are some reasons that districts might be nested?
6. What does the chapter mean by "sharing the pain" and what is an example of it?
7. What are the least transparent ways of drawing districts? The most transparent?
8. Speculate: which two of the recommendations by the authors do you think is the most important, and why?

Part III: Discuss (20m)

Zoom logistics: We'll be in two big groups and ask you to explain the chapter you read to the other group, and vice versa.

Go over questions from part II and reflections.