Recently, as reported in a Wall Street Journal blog and elsewhere, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has changed how it decides the Best winner of the Best Picture Oscar. Formerly, the Best Picture was chosen from a list of five nominees using plurality voting. Now there will be 10 nominees and plurality with elimination voting will be used.

With plurality voting, the Best Picture Oscar could in principle be awarded to a picture that got just over 10% of the votes. To avoid having a Best Picture win on the basis of just over 10% support, the Academy has moved to plurality with elimination voting, which requires each voter to rank the 10 nominated pictures in order of preference. But some people see problems with this too. For example, with 10 nominees, there may be voters who haven’t seen several of the pictures. Previously one might assume that voters simply chose the picture they liked best among those that they had seen. But how should a voter rank the nominated films if they haven’t seen all 10 of them?

Which way do you think is better for choosing the Best Picture, plurality (like they used to use) or plurality with elimination (like they’ll use now)? Or do you think some other method is better? Explain which method you think is best, and explain on what basis you feel this way