Examples of Redistricting Practices in Illinois

Example of Cracking – Campaign-Urbana 1991 Redistricting

One way they manipulated the map was through a tactic known as "cracking." This is what happened in the 103rd House District, which included Champaign and Urbana, neighboring cities that both lean Democratic.

The Republicans cracked the 103rd into two districts, each of which stretched into the more conservative areas outside of town.

Their plan worked: in the 1992 general election, Republican candidates won both of the newly-drawn districts.

Not Taking Communities of Interest into Account – Chinatown 2001 Redistricting

Meanwhile, the abuse of redistricting can punish communities of interest — minority neighborhoods or other groups of like-minded citizens — by systematically diluting their strength and limiting their ability to select their own representatives.

For instance, the 2001 Illinois House map carved Chicago’s Chinatown neighborhood into four districts.
Splitting Up Downstate City - 96th State House District – 2011 Redistricting

The new map splits Springfield in three, and connects it with rural areas and Decatur to form the 96th district. Under the new map, Springfield residents cannot hold a single representative accountable, and voters in the rural areas are essentially disenfranchised.

Extending from City of Chicago to Suburban DuPage County
5th Congressional District – 2011 Redistricting

This district contains much of downtown, along with Lincoln Park, and a lot of blue collar areas of the North Side of Chicago. It extends into the DuPage County including the suburbs of Elmhurst and Oak Brook that represent a different constituency.