



Lesson Plan: THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING SYSTEM

HANDOUT

Key terms

Identify (define and explain the significance of) the following:

Nomination –

National party convention –

Primary –

 Open primary –

 Closed primary –

Caucus –

Iowa Caucus –

New Hampshire Primary –

Frontloading –

Super Tuesday –

Delegate –

Superdelegate –

Proportional System –

Winner-take-all System –

Key Questions

Look at the 2004 schedule of primaries and answer the following questions about it. (Available at: <http://www.fec.gov/pages/2004pdates.htm>.)

- a. When does the primary season begin and end?
- b. Which events are first?
- c. Are there groups of states holding their primaries on the same days? Explain.
- d. Are all states having a primary or caucus for both parties? Explain.
- e. When is your state holding its primaries or caucuses?
- f. How does the schedule differ from previous presidential primary years?

Explain the nomination process in your state. Does your state hold primaries or caucuses or both? How are delegates to the national conventions allocated in your state? Is there anything unique about the process in your state? (To search for info about your state see: http://www.votesmart.org/mystate_government_resources.php.)

What traditionally happens during the nominating process for a party that has a sitting president up for reelection, as is the case this year?