

Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

STORY

Democrats Face Continued Battle After Clinton's Pa. Victory, 04/23/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june08/clinton_4-23.html

Estimated Time: One 45-minute class period with possible extension

[Student Worksheet](#) (reading comprehension and discussion questions without answers)

PROCEDURE

1. WARM UP

Use initiating questions to introduce the topic and find out how much your students know.

2. MAIN ACTIVITY

Have students read NewsHour Extra's feature story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions on the student handout.

3. DISCUSSION

Use discussion questions to encourage students to think about how the issues outlined in the story affect their lives and express and debate different opinions.

INITIATING QUESTIONS

- 1. Why haven't the Democrats chosen a presidential nominee?**
- 2. What is a primary election?**
- 3. What are some characteristics that affect people's politics (rich, poor, old, young, etc.)?**

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS – [Student Worksheet](#)

- 1. Who won the Democratic primary in Pennsylvania?**

ANSWER

Clinton defeated Obama by nearly ten percentage points, an amount that political strategists said was necessary for her to remain a viable contender for the Democratic nomination.

- 2. Senators Clinton and Obama tended to appeal to different groups of voters. Describe each candidate's typical voter profile.**

ANSWER

During the campaign, Clinton worked to show her working-class connections and highlight her Pennsylvania family roots. Exit polls showed she won more of the blue-collar workers, women and white men. She also won the majority of voters who named the economy as their top concern.

Obama, meanwhile, was favored by black voters, the affluent and those who recently switched to the Democratic Party-- about one in 10 Pennsylvania voters, according to the surveys conducted by The Associated Press and TV news networks.

- 3. How much money did each Democratic candidate spend in Pennsylvania? What is the current state of each campaign's financial situation?**

ANSWER

Obama continues to raise and spend more cash than Clinton. He spent \$11.2 million on television ads in Pennsylvania, more than any other place. That compared with \$4.8 million for Clinton.

With the Democratic race projected to last through June, Obama's campaign appears to be more fiscally sound. He is spending 75 cents for every dollar he is taking in while Clinton is spending \$1.10, The New York Times reported.

4. Where are the campaigns headed next? Which Democratic primaries remain?

ANSWER

After heaping attention on Pennsylvania, the Democrats will begin competing for the 187 delegates at play in Indiana's and North Carolina's May 6 primaries, but Guam holds its caucuses for 11 delegates three days before that. The other remaining Democratic primaries include Oregon, Kentucky, West Virginia, Montana, South Dakota and Puerto Rico.

5. Describe how each Democratic candidate's campaign is interpreting the Pennsylvania results?

ANSWER

The Clinton campaign used the victory to suggest their candidate can win big states with rural and blue-collar populations such as Pennsylvania and Ohio — which are necessary to win the general election against the Republicans.

The Obama campaign meanwhile argues that he is ahead in both the delegate and popular vote (the raw number of people who voted), and that he can attract independents and Republicans who have been locked out of many Democratic primaries.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Look at the arguments presented by both the Obama and Clinton campaigns. Which candidate is better poised to become the Democratic presidential nominee? Why do you think this?

2. Research the role of super delegates in the current Democratic presidential nominee race (http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june08/superdel_4-02.html). What do you think, how should each super delegate decide their vote? Should their votes reflect the will of the voters in their district? Their state? Or should their votes reflect their own judgments? Explain your reasoning.

3. In Pennsylvania each candidate seemed to appeal to certain groups of voters. Why do you think these groups find a particular candidate appealing? Did any of these results surprise you? How did the results in Pennsylvania mimic or differ from what happened in other regions or states? What do you think this will say about each candidate's chance of beating the Republican presidential nominee, Senator John McCain?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.