

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Democratic Super Delegates Face Pressure Over Presidential Pick, 04/02/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june08/superdel_4-02.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. **Who are super delegates?**

2. **When were super delegates created? Why were they created?**

3. **How are pledged delegates distributed?**

4. **Why is this issue of super delegates so important during this election cycle?**

5. **Are super delegates united in how they think their support should be decided? Why or why not?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. 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.

2. Do you think the super delegate system makes sense? Is it fair? What changes to the system of choosing a Democratic nominee for president would you make if you could? Explain any changes you would or would not make.

3. Using the Online NewsHour Democratic Super Delegate Tracker (<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/primaries/superdelegates/search.php>) research the latest information on the super delegates and their pledged votes. Do you notice any trends? What is surprising to you? What have you learned?

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.