

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

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

STORY

Upcoming Primaries Gain Importance as Candidates Vie for Delegates, 02/06/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june08/supertuesday_2-06.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the outcome for each party after Super Tuesday's votes were tallied?
2. Who are the Republican candidates and where did they each do well Tuesday?
3. Who are the Democratic candidates and what were their results after Tuesday's vote.
4. What is a possible scenario that could impact the Democratic national convention this year?
5. What are exit polls?
6. What are some trends revealed by Super Tuesday exit polls?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Research the system for awarding national convention delegates for the Democratic and Republican parties. How are they similar and how are they different? When did the current rules come to be? According to historians and experts, what significant events impacted these changes.

You can use information from this NewsHour discussion with historians:

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/politics/jan-june08/historians_02-05.html

2. Look at the election in your state. Has your state voted in a primary or caucus yet? How do the results in your state compare to the current situation? If your state has not yet voted, how do you think your state will go in both parties?

State by state information: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/primaries/states/>

3. What makes this primary election cycle unique to those of the recent past? Look at what makes the candidates who are running in both parties unique. Why is this cycle continuing for a longer period of time without set nominees? What factors are influencing this race?

NewsHour Vote 2008: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/index.html>