

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

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

STORY

Democrats Hope to Increase Obama's Support at Convention, 08/25/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/july-dec08/dnc_8-25.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who did Obama pick to be his running mate and when did he choose this person?
2. What is the official purpose of the convention?
3. How many people will attend the convention?
4. What is the main purpose of modern conventions?
5. Why are this year's conventions particularly important?
6. What is the state of the race?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Why did Obama pick Biden as the vice presidential candidate? Why not Hillary Clinton?
2. Why do the media cover political conventions if the delegate voting outcome is a foregone conclusion?
3. How much attention do you think the average person pays to these conventions? Is all the planning and coverage worth it?
4. What do you think will happen after the conventions? Do you think there will be a convention bounce for Obama? How did past convention performances compare with how the candidate performed in the November election?

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.