

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

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

STORY

Vice Presidential Candidates Hold Their Own in Closely Watched Debate

10/03/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/july-dec08/vpdebate_10-03.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did Senator Joe Biden say was the cause of the massive Wall Street rescue bill?
2. What are the main disagreements between the two candidates' positions about Iraq and Afghanistan?
3. Which candidate thinks that there should be no timeline for the withdrawal of the troops from Iraq?
4. What are the candidates' beliefs about No Child Left Behind?
5. Name at least two of the three issues that the candidates did agree on.
6. What did each candidate have to prove to the audience?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Who do you think won the debate? Why?

2. Imagine you are the moderator, Gwen Ifill. What questions would you ask the candidates? Why?

3. In your opinion what qualifies someone for the office of vice president? How does that differ from what qualifies someone for president?

4. There are three presidential debates and only one vice presidential debate, why do you think that is? Should there be more vice presidential debates? Why or why not?

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.