## Presidential Conventions and Delegates: Lesson Plan

### Topic

Each state has its own number of delegates, which belong to the Republican or Democratic party. These delegates vote at the national conventions on which of their party's candidates should become their presidential nominee. Each state assigns party delegates to candidates, either proportionally, in a winner-takes-all style, or a combination of the two methods. Usually, national conventions have more to do with refining party policies on topics and presenting a powerful image to the public than revealing the presidential nominees.

### Possible subjects/classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible subjects/classes</th>
<th>Time needed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- History</td>
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<td>- Government</td>
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<td>- Social studies</td>
<td>30-45 minutes</td>
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### Video link:

https://academy4sc.org/topic/presidential-conventions-and-delegates-choose-your-fighter/

### Objective: What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?

Students will be able to...

- Explain the job of a delegate.
- Articulate the different ways states can assign their delegates.
- Explain the purpose behind the national conventions.

### Key Concepts & Vocabulary

Primaries, Candidate

### Materials Needed

Worksheet
### Before you watch

**Turn & Talk:** How do you think the Democratic and Republican parties choose their presidential nominee? Discuss with the person next to you.

### While you watch

Answer the questions on the Worksheet.

### After you watch/discussion questions

1. What method of pledging delegates appeals the most to you? Why?
2. How do you feel about superdelegates? Do you think they're an important part of the Democratic National Convention or not? Explain your reasoning.
3. Why do you think the role of the national conventions have changed so much over the years? Explain your reasoning.

### Activity Ideas

- **Imagine That:** A state holds a popular vote for candidates A, B, and C. Candidate A receives 15% of the votes, candidate B receives 55%, and candidate C receives the remaining 30%. However, the state only has ten votes that they can put forward in the national election. How should they use these ten votes? What are a few different ways they could assign the ten votes?

- **Research It:** Work in groups and look into the last held national convention (either for Republicans or Democrats). What were some notable attendees? Who were your state's delegates? Take down notes on anything interesting you find out about the convention, and share your findings with the class.

### Sources/places to learn more

3. Masket, Seth E. and Heaney, Michael T. and Miller, Joanne M. and Strolovitch, Dara Z. “Networking the Parties: A Comparative Study of

youtube.com/watch?v=haaLqlF3V2k
Presidential Conventions and Delegates: Worksheet

1. What's a delegate?

2. What is the difference between pledged and unpledged delegates?

3. What are some different ways states pledge their delegates?

4. How do Democrats pledge their state delegates? How do Republicans?

5. What’s a national convention?