

# Electing a President

## Student Handout



- I can understand the differences between open and closed primaries and their significance in the election process.
- I can identify the role and function of caucuses in the selection of candidates and policy decisions.
- I can compare the processes and purposes of party conventions.
- I can analyze the function and impact of the Electoral College.

**Directions:** Each station includes some activity or analysis questions to complete. Use this handout to record your answers, additional notes, and ideas.

## Station 1: Open and Closed Primaries

List the pros and cons of both open and closed primaries in the table below.

Primary	Pros	Cons
Open Primary		
Closed Primary		

### Additional Notes

# Station 2: Differences Between Primaries and Caucuses

## Essential Vocabulary

Caucus	Participants meet at a designated local venue to determine the allocation of delegates. The voting procedures for caucuses vary across political parties and states; however, they generally involve more public and participatory elements, including deliberations and discussions among attendees. These discussions can take place before, during, or after the voting process. Additionally, it is common for caucuses to involve multiple rounds of voting.
Primary	Preliminary elections conducted by political parties in which registered party members vote to choose their party's candidate for the general election. These elections can be open or closed, depending on whether independents and members of other parties are allowed to participate. The purpose of primary elections is to narrow the field of candidates and to select a nominee who will represent the party in the upcoming general election.

## Analysis Questions

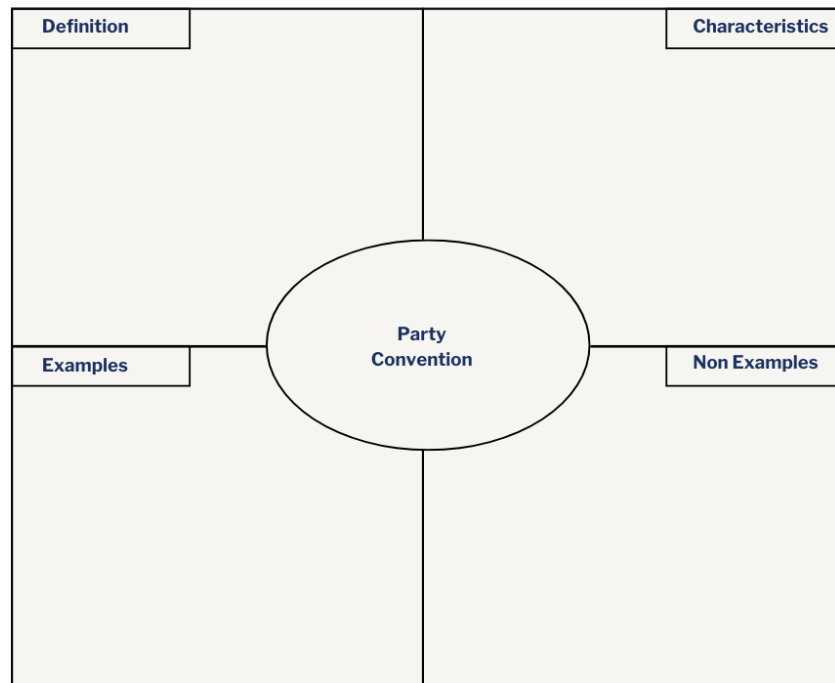
1. Look at the list of key steps listed. How do these steps differ from a traditional voting process during a primary?

2. Analyze the dynamics of group persuasion and negotiation among caucus-goers. How do individuals try to sway others to their candidate's side?

## Additional Notes

## Station 3: Party Conventions

Fill out the Frayer model for a party convention, including a definition, characteristics, examples, and non-examples.



## Analysis Questions

1. How do modern political conventions differ from those in the 1800s in terms of their functions and significance?

2. Analyze the dynamics of group persuasion and negotiation among caucus-goers. How do individuals try to sway others to their candidate's side?

### Additional Notes

## Station 4: Electoral College

### Analysis Questions

1. What is the Electoral College?

2. Why was the Electoral College created?

3. *How does the Electoral College work?*

4. *What role does it play in our constitutional system?*

### **Additional Notes**

