



Comparing the 2020 Democratic and Republican National Convention Speeches

TEACHER NOTE: to use this resource in your classroom - click 'file' and then click 'make a copy' to create your own Google Doc version to edit as needed and share with your students.

Warm-Up: *Brainstorm answers to the following questions before beginning the lesson.*

What are political parties and what do they do?
Why do you think political parties hold national conventions?

Introduction: View the following linked video clip to provide background on party conventions. Answer each question based on the clip.

Video Clip 1: The Purpose and Format of 2020 National Party Conventions (3:02)	
According to Ms. Tumulty, what are the two things that modern conventions are supposed to do?	
What does Mr. Robinson mean when he says that conventions are showcases for the party and the ticket?	
Based on their descriptions, how are the 2020 conventions different from previous years?	

EXPLORATION: View the following clips for the Democratic and Republican Conventions. Use the chart below to take notes on the categories in each column.

Democratic National Convention (August 17-20, 2020)				
Video Clip	Who is the speaker? Why do you think he/she was chosen to speak?	Tone and Images Used	Issues Discussed	Summarize the overall message of this speech in 2-3 sentences.
Video Clip 2: DNC Night 4: Presidential Nominee Joe Biden				
Video Clip 3: DNC Night 3: Vice Presidential Nominee Kamala Harris				
Video Clip 4: DNC Night 3: Former President Barack Obama				
Video Clip 5: DNC Night 2: Dr. Jill Biden				
Video Clip 6: DNC Night 1: Former				

<u>First Lady Michelle Obama</u>				
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Republican National Convention (August 24-27, 2020)

Video Clip	Who is the speaker? Why do you think he/she was chosen to speak?	Tone and Images Used	Issues Discussed	Summarize the overall message of this speech in 2-3 sentences.
Video Clip 7: <u>RNC Night 4: President Donald Trump</u>				
Video Clip 8: <u>RNC Night 3: Vice President Mike Pence</u>				
Video Clip 9: <u>RNC Night 2: First Lady Melania Trump</u>				
Video Clip 10: <u>RNC Night 1: Sen. Tim Scott</u>				
Video Clip 11: <u>RNC Night 1: Former Amb. Nikki Haley</u>				

APPLICATION AND CONCLUSION: *Use your notes and examples from the video clips to complete the following tasks for both parties.*

Summarize the message that each party was trying to portray with this convention. Include examples about the tone of the convention, speakers, priorities, important issues and themes throughout the speeches.	
Democratic Party	Republican Party
Evaluate this message. How effective do you think this message will be for voters?	
Democratic Party	Republican Party

