

**LESSON PLAN 2: CRITICAL THINKING, ARGUMENT WRITING**

**NATIONAL PAGES 10-11**  
**Lexile level: 1310L**

# Why Are Some Delegates Super?

In the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, superdelegates play an important—and controversial—role.



## Additional Resources

[upfrontmagazine.com](http://upfrontmagazine.com)

### Print or project:

- Article Quiz (also on p. 9 of this Teacher's Guide)
- Take a Stand (also on p. 12 of this Teacher's Guide)

**Video:** Political parties

## Analyze the Article

- 1 Read:** Students should read the article, marking the text to note key ideas or questions.
- 2 Discuss:** Ask students to answer the following critical-thinking questions, citing evidence from the text:
  - ▶ **How are superdelegates different from pledged delegates?** (*In the Democratic Party, pledged delegates are awarded to a specific candidate based on states' primary and caucus results. When the party conducts its first ballot at the national convention, these delegates are required to vote for the candidate they are pledged to. Superdelegates are party insiders (governors, etc.) who can support any candidate at the convention.*)
  - ▶ **When and why did the Democratic Party create superdelegates?** (*The Democrats created superdelegates*

*after the 1972 election. Senator George McGovern had won the party's nomination, but he lost in a landslide in the general election. The party wanted to have a way to make sure its future nominees were candidates who could win in the general election.)*

- ▶ **When do you think superdelegates should be allowed to declare their loyalty? Why?** (*Answers will vary. Some may argue that when superdelegates announce which candidate they support before the primaries take place, it can unfairly sway voters. Others might say that the timing doesn't matter, because superdelegates can change their minds.*)

## 3 Core Skill Practice

Print or project the activity **Take a Stand** (on p. 12 of this Teacher's Guide). Have students use it to plan and then write a persuasive essay on the issue of superdelegates.

## Extend & Assess

**4 Writing Prompt**  
What's your stand on the use of superdelegates? Use the skills sheet to plan and write an essay on this topic.

**5 Classroom Debate**  
Should the Republican Party use superdelegates in its nominating process?

**6 Quiz**  
Use the quiz (p. 9 of this Teacher's Guide) to assess students' comprehension.