

Video Question Guide: Iowa Caucus History

1. How long has Iowa used the caucus system?
2. A. What prompted Iowa's national attention?
B. What connections do you see between the first video today and this one?
3. A. What led to Iowa being first in the nation in 1972?
B. What was the 1972 example that demonstrated Iowa's first in the nation status was significant? In 1976?
4. Name 2 ways Iowa caucuses have influenced candidates' bids?
5. What are caucuses?
6. How are Republican and Democratic caucuses different?
7. Who can participate in the caucuses?
8. What two factors still make Iowa caucuses first in the nation status important today?

Answer Key:

1. Since it has been a state.
2. A. 1968 Democratic convention riots.
B. The 1968 riots led to the Democratic party to analyze their nomination process and try to get more minorities and women involved locally.
3. A. Needed time to plan and prepare paperwork before the national conventions, but the key was getting the media involved and getting the candidates to come to Iowa.
B. Sen. George McGovern's campaign manager, Gary Hart emphasized Iowa so McGovern could have a strong lead-in to NH primaries. McGovern gained much attention as a result. In 1976, unknown governor of GA, Jimmy Carter spring-boarded from Iowa and later became the president as a result! Also in 1976, Republicans also changed their caucus date to be the same as Democrats.
4. Some candidates have been ruled out as a result of Iowa like H. Clinton in 2008, others have gained more attention like Bush in 1980 winning the VP bid.
5. Party meetings held at the precinct level.
6. Republicans use a straw poll whereas Democrats use proportional representation.
7. Any registered party member and can register on site.
8. Media coverage and the candidates still campaign in Iowa.