



Worksheet 6 – National Party Convention Statements Ranking

Consider how important are the national nominating conventions and rank the statements below in order of their importance on the diamond.

1. The convention ratifies the party's nominee and allows the party to unite around the chosen candidate.
2. The convention is the only time that the political parties meet nationally, otherwise they remain as 50 separate state parties.
3. The convention puts forward the party's official policy positions and adopts them. Although they have already been shaped and determined prior to the convention.
4. The presidential candidates hope to achieve an electoral bounce after the convention. In 2016 polls indicated that Trump received a post convention bounce of 2-3 per cent whilst Clinton's was 5-6 per cent.
5. It is used as an opportunity to announce the vice-presidential candidate, although this is almost always known beforehand.
6. It allows those opposed to the winning candidate to demonstrate their opposition in a democratic way. Although the party mainly seeks to ensure this is minimised.
7. It allows the parties to project their candidates in the media on a national platform.
8. The convention enables the party's supporters to meet and network in a way that they would not normally be able to do.
9. The party are able to publically demonstrate the diversity of their own support base to a wider nation.

Most important

Least important