



Teacher Resource 1

Fact Sheet

The Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD), online at <http://www.debates.org/>, sponsors and produces debates for the U.S. presidential and vice presidential candidates. CPD has sponsored the debates in 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008. It also provides help to establish a tradition of debate in emerging democracies around the world. As in prior years, the 2012 debates will be conducted in accordance with all applicable legal requirements, including regulations by the Federal Election Commission. Invitations to candidates to participate must be based on pre-established, objective criteria.

The 2012 nonpartisan selection criteria are:

1. Evidence of Constitutional eligibility
2. Evidence of ballot access
3. Indicators of electoral support

The CPD's website provides information about each of the three scheduled debates regarding location, time, format, moderator, topics, etc. It also provides information about past debates, including transcripts.

It is strongly recommended that the teacher visit this site before executing the accompanying lesson. It will provide greater detail about the process and selection criteria etc.

The American Presidency Project, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/>, was established in 1999 as a collaboration between John T. Woolley and Gerhard Peters at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Its archives contain 101,965 documents related to the study of the presidency, including transcripts and video of presidential debates.

C-SPAN video of presidential debates can be found at <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/topic/89>.