



# NARROWING THE FIELD

## *HOLD YOUR OWN PRIMARY*

**Overview:** The 2016 Presidential Election is in full swing with state primaries and caucuses right around the corner. The first caucus will take place in Iowa on February 1 with the first primary being held in New Hampshire on February 9. Help your students better understand what is transpiring and how the process unfolds in Georgia by holding your own classroom primary on March 1 (Super Tuesday), the day Georgia holds both their Republican and Democratic primaries.

### Essential Questions:

1. What are the similarities and differences in primaries and caucuses?
2. How do primaries and caucuses fit into the election process?
3. How do open primaries differ from closed primaries?

### Georgia Performance Standards

**SSCG8:** The student will demonstrate knowledge of local, state, and national elections.  
a. Describe the nomination and election process.

### Materials

OTCT Episode 5 “Narrowing the Field”  
Voter registration cards  
Voting ballots

### Steps

1. Show students Episode 5 of *On The Campaign Trail*, “Narrowing the Field,” to give them a brief overview of caucuses and primaries as well as to catch them up on the current state of the 2016 election.
2. Have your students choose a Democratic or Republican ballot and let them cast their votes.
  - a. **Open Primary-** to simulate an open primary, let them select which party’s candidates for whom they would like to vote.  
**Note:** If you are afraid they will all choose the same party, pass the ballots out to the students randomly and explain to them that during the actual Georgia primary, they would have the freedom to choose their desired political party.



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- b. **Closed Primary**- to resemble a closed primary, give students a voter's registration card a few days before and have them declare their political affiliation. Then, on Super Tuesday, hand them their voter's registration card and the corresponding party ballot. Make sure you emphasize that Georgia **does not** have a closed primary.
3. Have students vote silently. Create a ballot box or voting booths for more authenticity.
4. Count all of the votes and declare the winner of each party.
5. For an extension activity, have them simulate a caucus so that they can compare and contrast the differences between the two processes.



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### ★Voter Registration★

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Political Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this card, I certify that I meet the age requirements to vote in this election.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



### ★Voter Registration★

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Political Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this card, I certify that I meet the age requirements to vote in this election.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature





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### DEMOCRATIC BALLOT

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Democratic Party<br/>Ballot (D)</b>                |                  |
| US Presidential Nominee<br>Vote for Not More Than One |                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | CLINTON, Hillary |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | O'MALLEY, Martin |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | SANDERS, Bernie  |

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Democratic Party<br/>Ballot (D)</b>                |                  |
| US Presidential Nominee<br>Vote for Not More Than One |                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | CLINTON, Hillary |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | O'MALLEY, Martin |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | SANDERS, Bernie  |



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### REPUBLICAN BALLOT

| <b>Republican Party<br/>Ballot (R)</b>                |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| US Presidential Nominee<br>Vote for Not More Than One |                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | BUSH, Jeb       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | CARSON, Ben     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | CHRISTIE, Chris |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | CRUZ, Ted       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | FIORINA, Carly  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | GILMORE, Jim    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | HUCKABEE, Mike  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | KASICH, John    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | PAUL, Rand      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | RUBIO, Marco    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | SANTORUM, Rick  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                              | TRUMP, Donald   |