**Video and Discussion 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?

1. A. What led to Iowa being first in the nation in 1972?
2. What demonstrated that Iowa’s first in the nation status was significant?
3. Name 2 ways Iowa caucuses have influenced candidates’ bids?
4. What are caucuses?
5. How are Republican and Democratic caucuses different?
6. Who can participate in the caucuses?
7. What factors still make the Iowa caucuses first in the nation status important today?

**Answer Key:**

1. Since it has been a state, except for a brief time in the early 1900s.
2. A. 1968 Democratic convention riots; the media’s recognition of the power of Iowa as a “king maker.”

B. The 1968 riots led to the Democratic party to analyze their nomination process and try to get more minorities and women involved locally.

1. 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.
2. Possible responses include: 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.
3. Examples include Carter’s going from “Jimmy who?” to president, or surprise strong finishers such as Pat Robertson showing the impact of interest groups. Also, narrowing of the candidates, or breaking candidacies.

\*Questions 5 through 8 are not directly answered in the video, but are included to stir discussion and provide focus.

1. Party meetings held at the precinct level.
2. Republicans use a straw poll whereas Democrats use proportional representation.
3. Any registered party member and can register on site.
4. Among possible answers include: Media coverage and the candidates still campaign in Iowa.