

Classroom Activities

1) **Political Conventions: Then and Now**

What is the purpose of a political convention? Compare and contrast how the major party conventions have changed over time? What elements have stayed the same? (See worksheet below)

2) **A Break with Tradition**

Why did FDR decide to fly to Chicago to attend the convention? What impact did this have? What had been the tradition regarding candidates attending conventions up to that time? What other presidential traditions (Washington serving two terms and then retiring, Truman pardoning a turkey at Thanksgiving, Trump not releasing his tax returns, etc.) have been set and broken throughout our political history? Who set them? Why? Who broke them why? What impact did these have? (See worksheet below)

3) **Administration Nicknames**

The Roosevelt Administration became known as the “New Deal.” What did that name mean? Research the nicknames, or major themes of some of the other presidential administrations. How do these compare to the New Deal? (See worksheet below)

4) **The Issues of ‘32**

Identify some of the key issues from the 1932 campaign. What did Roosevelt plan to do about these issues? What New Deal Agencies did he need to create to implement and administer his programs?

5) **Web Quest the Acceptance Speech to the 1932 Democratic Convention**

Ask students to visit the Pare Lorentz *Day by Day* website and review the timeline and calendar entries for March 4, 1933. Then ask them to answer the following questions:

- a) What role did John Nance Garner play in helping FDR secure the 1932 Democratic Nomination for President?
- b) Describe John Nance Garner’s political career prior to becoming Vice President.
- c) What was John Nance Garner’s attitude about the New Deal? Why do you suppose he was on the ticket with FDR?

6) Testing for “Fake News” and “Alternative Facts”

One of the key challenges before us today is to determine the credibility of the information that is made available to us. What is “fake news” or “alternative facts” and what is legitimate news and real facts? Some years ago a Librarian names Molly Beestrums developed what is known as the CRAP test. CRAP is an acronym for **Currency/Clarity**, **Reliability/Relevance**, **Authority/Accuracy** and **Purpose /Point of View**. A brief description of what each of these means is provided below. More detailed information can be found on line.

Currency/Clarity

-When was the information created? _____

-How well does it reflect the events of the times? _____

Reliability/Relevance

-How well would the information stand up to peer review? _____

-Is it a primary or secondary source? _____

-Is the information general or detailed? _____

Authority/Accuracy

-Who is the author/source of the information? _____

-Where does the information come from? _____

-Is the information supported with evidence? _____

-Can the evidence be verified from other sources? _____

Purpose /Point of View

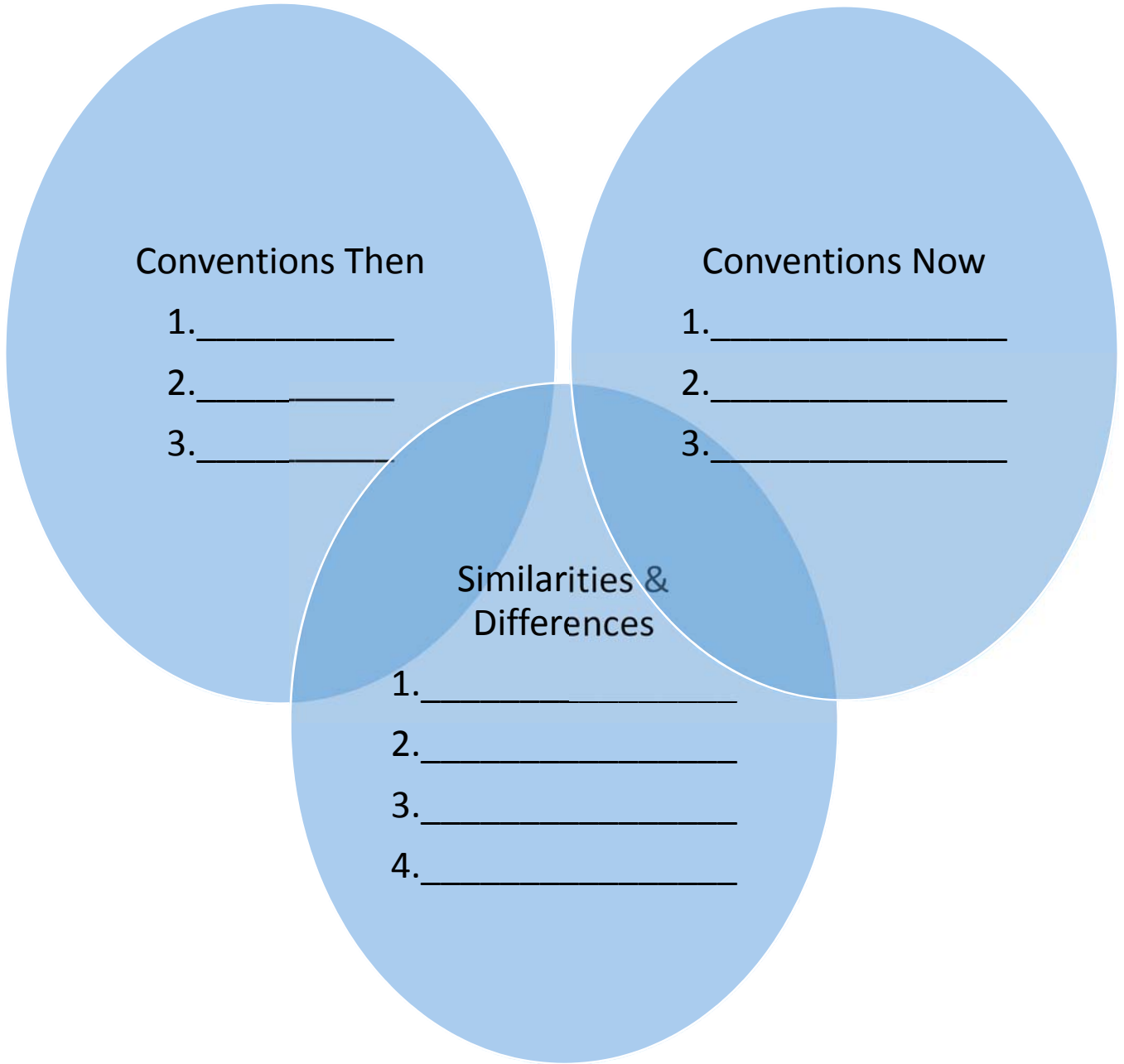
-Who is the intended audience? _____

-Is the information being provided to inform, teach, sell, entertain, motivate or persuade? _____

-Does the point of view appear objective and impartial? Why? _____

Ask your students to apply this test to FDR’s 1st 1932 Acceptance Speech. Is the president’s message real news or fake news? Is he presenting real facts or alternative facts? _____

Political Conventions: Then and Now (Question # 1 Worksheet)



Political Traditions (Question # 2 Worksheet)

#1 _____ Set the tradition of _____ _____	_____ Broke the tradition by _____ _____	Impact These Had...
#2 _____ Set the tradition of _____ _____	_____ Broke the tradition by _____ _____	Impact These Had...
#3 _____ Set the tradition of _____ _____	_____ Broke the tradition by _____ _____	Impact These Had...
#4 _____ Set the tradition of _____ _____	_____ Broke the tradition by _____ _____	Impact These Had...
#5 _____ Set the tradition of _____ _____	_____ Broke the tradition by _____ _____	Impact These Had...

Administration Nicknames (Question # 3 Worksheet)

Presidential Administration	Nickname/Theme	Comparison to the New Deal
Truman		
Eisenhower		
Kennedy		
Johnson		
Nixon		
Ford		
Carter		
Reagan		
Bush 41		
Clinton		
Bush 43		
Obama		

Campaign Issues of 1932 (Question # 4 Worksheet)

Issue	Roosevelt's Solution	New Deal Agency Created as Result
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		