

You have been an active participant in an organization that has focused on the Iowa caucuses. For the final project for this class I want you to reflect on the Iowa caucuses and their role in our nominating process. Write an essay that critically evaluates the caucuses and their role in our nominating process. What are their strengths and weaknesses? Are they a positive or negative force in the selection of presidential nominees? And how might we change the system and/or the caucuses to improve the system? (You may think it is fine as it is. If so, you should defend that position). Be sure to cite specific examples from the 2008 caucuses (and how they turned out) and draw upon your internship experience to provide evidence to support your arguments. And also reflect on your internship. Has it had an impact on how you see this process? Are you more or less likely to be involved in a similar capacity in the future?

Your essay will be evaluated with the following rubric:

- 1) Discussion and evaluation of the Iowa caucuses and their role in the nominating process. (20 points):
- 2) Use of evidence from 2008 caucuses and internships to support argument. (20 points):
- 3) Coherence of essay (including, but not limited to, the relationship between the recommendations for the future and the analysis of the caucuses and what happened in 2008). (20 points):
- 4) Critical reflections on internship experience: (20 points):
- 5) Quality of writing (spelling, grammar, clarity, etc.): (20 points)