

Going for the Silver Medal: Choosing a Vice President



No child ever says, “When I grow up, I want to be vice-president of the United States.”

Yet, during a presidential election, selection of a vice-presidential candidate receives a lot of media coverage.

Why, when even the founding fathers gave the Constitutional-definition of the vice-presidency minimal attention?

One of those founding fathers, John Adams, was the 2nd U.S. president and served as George Washington’s vice-president for two terms. He complained to his wife about the frustrating role of vice-president, “My country has in its wisdom contrived for me the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived.”

The vice-presidential selection process and role have changed numerous times since John Adams first held the position. Study this increasingly high-profile office to assess whether or not the role of the vice-president should be changed or amended. Then, consider how important is the choice of vice-president in a presidential election and how it could impact the outcome of the current election process. Use this knowledge to create a political party campaign advertisement to promote a specific vice-presidential choice.