

Creating Your Own Political Party

Brief Description

You and your group will create your own political party. Like all political parties, you need to develop a platform that displays your beliefs as a party. This platform will eventually be displayed in a speech that the candidate you choose will give.

Product

You must decide on the issues your party will support and where they stand. Choose six of the following;

- Taxes
- Foreign Affairs
- Environment
- Defense Spending
- Health Care
- Social Security/Unemployment
- Education
- Civil Rights
- Immigration
- Economy

- The candidates, with their speech-writers, will write a speech they will present at the caucus. This speech should convey the major parts of the party's platform.
- Speech will be evaluated mostly on content but also on presentation so choose a candidate you feel is a good speaker.
- Both Vice-Presidential and Presidential candidate will give speeches. Each candidate will cover three of the party's issues (i.e. President will address 3 and Vice-President a different three).
- Must also include a campaign poster with a slogan, party mascot, candidates' names, and party name.

Roles for the group

President: Is responsible for a speech that lays out the party's platform as well as how they stand on three specific issues.

Vice-President: Is responsible for a speech that matches the President's platform as well as how they stand on three different specific issues.

Campaign manager: Is in charge of managing the entire campaign from the speeches to the advertisements to the candidates.

Speech writer: Is responsible for helping the President and Vice-President to craft their speeches, needs to cross check the speeches to make sure they do not contradict one another.

Press secretary: Responsible for the marketing of the candidates from their advertisements to their slogan.

Connection to CCSS

Writing Standards Grades 3-5

1. Write opinion pieces on topics and texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

Speaking and Listening Standards for Literature Grades 3-5

4. Report on a topic or text or present an opinion, sequencing ideas logically and using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

5. Include multimedia components and visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, using formal English when appropriate to task and situation.

Suggested Timeline

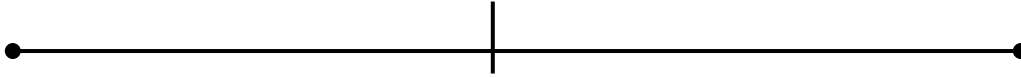
<p>DAY ONE</p> <p>Introduce the project – form groups</p>	<p>DAY TWO</p> <p>Have students in groups research/develop their stance on issues for their platform (use the template to organize)</p>	<p>DAY THREE</p> <p>Have students in groups continue to research/develop their stance on issues for their platform</p>	<p>DAY FOUR</p> <p>Have students in groups continue to research/develop their stance on issues for their platform</p>	<p>DAY FIVE</p> <p>Students should have settled on their platform stance and are ready to write their speech.</p>
<p>DAY SIX</p> <p>How to write a good speech (use mini-lesson provided)</p>	<p>DAY SEVEN</p> <p>Writing of speech/creating campaign poster</p>	<p>DAY EIGHT</p> <p>Writing of speech/creating campaign poster</p>	<p>DAY NINE</p> <p>Writing of speech/creating campaign poster</p>	<p>DAY TEN</p> <p>Writing of speech/creating campaign poster</p>
<p>DAY ELEVEN</p> <p>What makes a good speech? (use mini-lesson provided)</p>	<p>DAY TWELVE</p> <p>Practice speech</p>	<p>DAY THIRTEEN</p> <p>Caucus (have students fill out peer evaluations)</p>		

Political Parties

- Discuss the purpose of political parties.
 - A political party is an organization that seeks to influence public policy by putting its own members into positions of governmental authority.

There are six things that political parties accomplish:

- 1) Groups of like-minded people tend to pull together around candidates whose issue positions coincide with their political needs.
 - Members of a specific political party tend to agree on many, but not all, of the issues. This makes it easier to find a candidate who may see issues the same way you do.
 - 2) The set of alternatives voters can pick from is simplified.
 - Without parties nominating a single candidate to represent their party, there would be literally thousands of people running for each office. This narrows down and streamlines the choices.
 - 3) The parties complement the legally established process for choosing public officials.
 - Parties identify and evaluate candidates as contenders for certain roles. They would not put in an underqualified candidate for fear of losing that election.
 - 4) Parties are a prime means of recruiting and training political leaders.
 - Parties provide opportunities for politicians to develop their skills and becoming a more experienced public official.
 - 5) Parties give coherence to government policy.
 - Because of separation of power, there can often be confusion and lack of coordination. Political parties help to coordinate the government. Whatever party controls Congress is going to appoint officials from that party to positions. Similarly with the President and his appointments.
 - 6) Parties help make government responsible to the people.
 - Individual candidates come and go but parties remain fairly stable. The electorate can reward those parties who do a good job of governing and punish those that do not.
- Parties fit onto what is called a political spectrum.



Radical Liberal Moderate Conservative Reactionary

- **Radical:** Advocating extreme policies, usually used in connection with extreme left-wing politics.
 - **Liberal:** A belief that regards the individual as a rational being capable of overcoming obstacles to a better world and supports changes in the political and economic status quo.
 - **Moderate:** Middle of the road politics that believe that some things should change while others can remain with the status quo.
 - **Conservative:** A defense of the political and economic status quo against forces of change; holds that established customs, laws, and traditions should guide society.
 - **Reactionary:** Advocating extremely conservative politics.
- Take a look at political parties in comparison.
- Republicans vs. Democrats (overhead)
 - Third Parties
 - Green Party
 - Natural Law Party
 - Reform Party
 - Communist Party
 - Socialist Party
 - Labor Party

FUNCTIONS THAT A POLITICAL PARTY SERVES

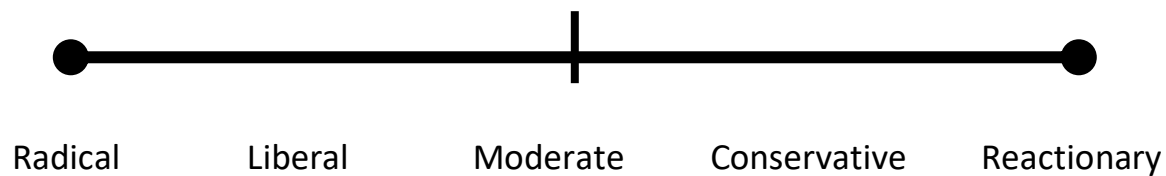
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Republicans

- ❖ Favor a weaker central government.
- ❖ Believe government should not have to help people financially with programs (i.e. Welfare, Social Security).
- ❖ Usually supported by wealthy, suburban communities, and big business.
- ❖ Support free enterprise.
- ❖ Strict interpretation of the Constitution.
- ❖ Pro-Life.
- ❖ Mascot is the Elephant.

Democrats

- ❖ Favor a strong central government.
- ❖ Believe government should help people financially with programs (i.e. Welfare, Social Security).
- ❖ Usually supported by labor unions, urban communities, minorities, and small business.
- ❖ Supports getting involved and regulating business.
- ❖ Loose interpretation of the Constitution.
- ❖ Pro-Choice.
- ❖ Mascot is the Donkey.



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Issue #1 _____

Party's Stance _____

Issue #2 _____

Party's Stance _____

Issue #3 _____

Party's Stance _____

Issue #4 _____

Party's Stance _____

Issue #5 _____

Party's Stance _____

Issue #6 _____

Party's Stance _____

How to Write a Good Speech

Teachers can access the following websites that will give tutorials on how to give a good speech. There can be a discussion afterwards for common elements and suggestions that students can use in their own speeches.

Website that the class can watch when getting ready to write their speech:

http://www.ehow.co.uk/video_4990892_write-campaign-speech.html

Basic Structure to Your Political Speech (adapted from *Tips from the Insiders: How to Write a Political Speech* – Scholastic)

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/tips-insiders-how-write-political-speech>

1. Get to the Point — Quick!

You can't start a speech until you are sure of your central point — the idea you need the audience to remember, even if they remember nothing else. Your theme should be simple enough that it can be expressed in one sentence. There are really only a few ideas an audience is going to grasp and remember.

2. Write Like People Talk

After deciding on a theme, you have to consider the tone of your speech. Every step of the way you must remember that what you're writing will be read aloud, not on a page. A speech must be appropriate for the size and location of your audience, as well as for its familiarity with your topic. Also, successful speeches have a conversational tone, in the hope that people will almost forget that what they're hearing is a prepared text.

3. Make a Connection

Now you know what you want to say and how you want to say it. But how should your speech begin? The opening lines of a speech are critical to its success. You always want to establish some kind of rapport with the audience first. You want to establish up front this connection, so they will continue to listen to you. Your first opportunity is with the acknowledgments, to establish a rapport with the people who are in the front of the audience.

4. Get Them to Your Side

Try to make audiences identify and sympathize with a speaker early on in a speech, so they'll want to hear what he or she has to say. One of the best ways to do this is to tell stories or anecdotes that illustrate a topic, or show that the topic is something that could have a real effect on the audience.

5. The Meat and Potatoes

Now you've reached the heart of your speech. Keep things simple and make sure to tell your audience what you're going to say before you say it, so they won't miss your point. For example, if you're trying to get people to agree with your solution to a problem, make sure you tell them why the problem is so serious.

6. Go For It!

The opening paragraphs of a speech are very important. As a warm-up exercise, imagine three situations in which you might make a speech. Now, try writing a full-length speech of one to two pages based on one of your paragraphs. You should know your topic and be sure of your opinions; you might first spend some time in your school library for research. Also, be specific about what your role is in dealing with the subject you're discussing, who you are speaking to, and where the speech is being given.

What Makes a Good Speech?

Here students will be looking at actual speeches and making sure they follow the structure and meet the criteria of what makes a good speech.

Examples of Campaign or Political Speeches that students can view on YouTube.

William Jennings Bryon "Cross of Gold" speech

Ronald Reagan Tear Down this Wall speech

JFK "Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You" speech

Looking at a great speech

Analyze one of the most famous speeches, Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. You can choose to have a discussion with students about the speech or offer the tips below and see how well this speech lived up to them.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

1. Make your points short and clear
2. Be professional
3. Speak with confidence, authority
4. Try to make a connection
5. Use imagery, examples
6. End strong

Create Your Own Political Party Project

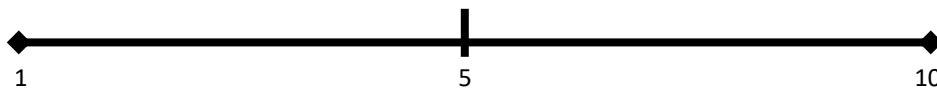
Political Party _____

Overall	President _____	Vice-President _____	Campaign _____
<p>Excellent (A)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President is confident in his/her speech, looking at the audience and speaking clearly. • President covers 3 issues in their platform, clearly stating where they stand and how they will handle the issue. • President persuades the audience of his/her opinion, using evidence and facts to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-President is confident in his/her speech, looking at the audience and speaking clearly. • Vice-President covers 3 issues in their platform, clearly stating where they stand and how they will handle the issue. • Vice-President persuades the audience of his/her opinion, using evidence and facts to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign sign has the party name, candidates' names, party slogan, and mascot. • Campaign sign is easy to see and clearly represents what the party stands for. • Campaign itself fits together clearly; the sign, president speech, and vice-president speech all complimenting one another.
<p>Good (B-C)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President is confident in his/her speech most of the time, looking at the audience but also looking a lot at notes. • President covers 3 issues in their platform, but doesn't always clearly state where they stand and how they will handle the issue. • President persuades the audience of his/her opinion occasionally; using evidence and facts to do so, but is not consistent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-President is confident in his/her speech most of the time, looking at the audience but also looking a lot at notes. • Vice-President covers 3 issues in their platform, but doesn't always clearly state where they stand and how they will handle the issue. • Vice-President persuades the audience of his/her opinion occasionally, using evidence and facts to do so, but is not consistent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign sign is missing either the party name, candidates' names, party slogan, or mascot, but not more than one. • Campaign sign can be read but it does not clearly represent what the party stands for. • Campaign itself fits together; the sign, president speech, and vice-president speech, but some parts inconsistent with the overall platform.
<p>Needs Improvement (D-F)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President is not confident in his/her speech, reading notes off the page in a bland manner. • President covers 2 or fewer issues in their platform, providing almost no detail as to where they stand and how they will handle the issue. • President does not persuade the audience of his/her opinion, having no evidence and facts to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-President is not confident in his/her speech, reading notes off the page in a bland manner. • Vice-President covers 2 or fewer issues in their platform, providing almost no detail as to where they stand and how they will handle the issue. • Vice-President does not persuade the audience of his/her opinion, having no evidence and facts to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign sign is missing more than two of either the party name, candidates' names, party slogan, and mascot. • Campaign sign is not easy to see or gives no indication of what the party stands for. • Campaign does not fit together; either the sign, president speech, and vice-president speech being different from the overall platform.

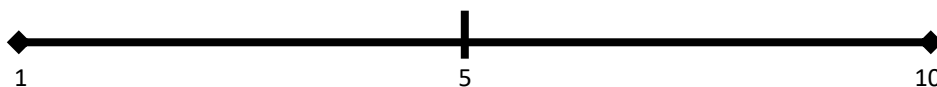
PEER-EVALUATION

Name _____ Group Member's Name _____

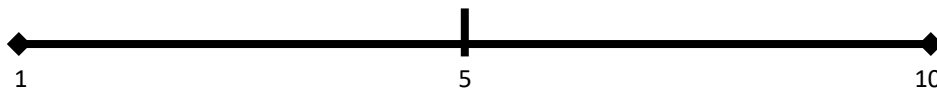
1) How would you rate this person in regards to creating the platform for your political party?



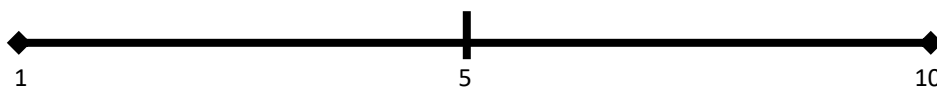
2) How would you rate this person's contribution in the campaign process of the project?



3) How would you rate this person's ability to stay on-task for this project?



4) Overall, as a group member, how would you rate this person?



PEER-EVALUATION

Name _____ Group Member's Name _____

1) How would you rate this person in regards to creating the platform for your political party?



2) How would you rate this person's contribution in the campaign process of the project?



3) How would you rate this person's ability to stay on-task for this project?



4) Overall, as a group member, how would you rate this person?

