



Let's Party! Understanding the Role of Political Parties

Time Frame: 3-4 Days	Author: Andrea Seipp, Belleville East High School aseipp@bths201.org
Proven Practices (indicate which practices used) <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Instruction on government institutions✓ Use of current & controversial issues✓ Simulations of democratic practices✓ Service Learning	
IL Social Studies Standards <p><u>SS.IS.9.9-12:</u> Use deliberative processes and apply democratic strategies and procedures to address local, regional, or global concerns and take action in or out of school.</p> <p><u>SS.CV.1.9-12:</u> Distinguish the rights, roles, powers, and responsibilities of individuals and institutions in the political system.</p> <p><u>SS.CV.2.9-12:</u> Evaluate the opportunities and limitations of participation in elections, voting, and the electoral process.</p> <p><u>SS.CV.5.9-12:</u> Analyze the impact of personal interest and diverse perspectives on the application of civic dispositions, democratic principles, constitutional rights, and human rights.</p> <p><u>SS.CV.6.9-12:</u> Describe how political parties, the media, and public interest groups both influence and reflect social and political interests.</p>	CCSS/ELA History/Social Studies Standards <p><u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.6</u> Evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence.</p> <p><u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7</u> Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.</p>
Essential Question: What purpose do political parties have in our political system?	
Supporting Questions <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What do political parties do for the government?2. What do political parties do for citizens?3. How did political parties form?4. What political parties exist today?	
Resources Required <p>PowerPoint</p> <p>Access to political party websites: www.gop.com www.democrats.org</p>	



[Webquest](#)

[Political Party Worksheet](#)

[“Let’s Party” group project](#)

Recommended Procedures

1. Day 1: Provide students with information about political parties. For example, discuss what political parties do for government, what political parties do for citizens, and the history of political parties, and the current two-party system.
2. Have students research the existing political parties. Students may use the Political Party WebQuest or the Political Party Worksheet.
3. Day 2: Divide the class into groups of 4-6 students and assign the “Let’s Party...” group project. Instruct students to create their own political party and complete the assigned worksheet along with a campaign poster to promote their party.
4. Day 3: Groups will complete their platform and poster.
5. Day 4: Groups will present their party and poster to the class.

Possible Service Learning Extensions

1. Have students create public service announcements for one issue in their platform.
2. Have each group nominate a candidate and then conduct a debate in front of other classes or videotape the debate.
3. Have students create a children’s book explaining political parties to share with elementary classes.

Differentiation

1. Advanced students could extend this project into a campaign and election simulation.
2. Students could be asked to nominate a candidate and create campaign materials and/or a commercial for their party/candidate.
3. Lower level classes could complete the project as a class with teacher support.
4. Have students develop their platform around local issues, or issues in the school.
5. In an election year, have students research the candidates’ websites and compare their position on the issues with their party’s platform.

Possible Assessments

- Assess the political party research.
- Assess the project and the student participation within the group.

Other Considerations

- If students are absent, they can complete an abbreviated form of the “Let’s Party...” project, for example, complete the worksheet only individually.
- Students will need internet access to complete the assignments.
- Students will need a poster board and other art supplies to complete a campaign poster.