



PARTY OVER HERE TASK

Create Your Own Political Party Teacher Instructions

Overview: This activity will help students understand the function of political parties as well as explore the differences between single, two, and multi-party systems.

Essential Questions:

- What roles do political parties serve in national elections?
- Do they differ during different times of the election?
- Why are political parties important?
- What are the different types of party systems and how do they differ?

Georgia Performance Standards

- SSCG8:** The student will demonstrate knowledge of local, state, and national elections.
- Describe the organization, role, and constituencies of political parties.

Materials

- OTCT Episode 6 video
- OTCT Episode 3 video
- Create Your Own Political Party Student Handout
- Create Your Own Political Party Voting Ballot

Steps

- Show students **Episode 6** of *On The Campaign Trail* to give them a brief overview of political parties and their functions in the election process and government.
- Place students in groups of 3 or 4 and explain that they will create their own political parties using the **Create Your Own Political Party** handout.
- Have each group present their parties to the class and allow them to vote on the party they would prefer to join, excluding their own.
- Count the votes and lead a discussion about why students liked or disliked a particular party.

Create Your Own Political Party

Overview: America generally has a two-party system in which the Democrats and Republicans dominate the political scene. Despite this two-party dominance, there are smaller political parties such as the Libertarian, Green, and Constitution parties that cater to civic beliefs and concerns not reflected in the Democratic and Republican platforms.

Task: Pretend that your school is a governing body with a multiparty system in which students form political parties in hopes that their views will be reflected in the way the school is run. Create a political party centered around student issues that you consider important. Include the following:

1. What is the name of your political party and why was it chosen?
2. Provide a brief but thorough description of its stance on important issues such as:
 - i. Dress Code
 - ii. Scheduling Mandates
 - iii. Food Selection
 - iv. Budget and Spending
3. Explain why your political party is needed and why its suggestions about fixing and improving school issues are beneficial.
4. Design an overall look for your political party including a slogan, symbol, and color scheme. Describe the meaning behind each choice.

Remember, branding is important to getting people to join your party. More members likely means more influence.
5. Select a candidate, famous or not famous, that you would like to see run for the 2016 presidential race under your political party's platform. Explain why this candidate is ideal, how he/she represents the core opinions and values of your party. Make sure your candidate is eligible to run based on the constitutional qualifications that were discussed in **Episode 3** of *On the Campaign Trail*, **Do You Qualify**.
6. Create a video, poster, or radio campaign to spread the word about your political party and promote your candidate. Take a look at our **Campaign Advertisement** activity from **Episode 3** for assistance.
7. Present your political party, as well as the candidate you are supporting to run, to the class.