

**AP U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS
MR. WAGENBERG**

POLITICAL PARTIES PROJECT

PART 1 - Individual

This section of the project requires you to become familiar with the positions taken by the two major parties, and their intended audiences; you must learn each party's positions as they state them, not as characterized by their opponents or their critics. A good starting point is each party's website:

www.democrats.org

www.gop.com

Create a table in which you:

- provide a side-by-side comparison of the positions taken on the issues
- for each issue, describe the particular group the party is attempting to appeal to - be as detailed as you can, but use only observable, quantifiable descriptors.

PART 2 - Group

Create your own political party: the Great New Party. Decide which issues are most important to the party, create the party platform and determine which segments of the voting population will support your party.

Create a website for the Great New Party. (see the Website Guide for details)

- you may create the website in any program available through the school network, such as Google Sites, or Weebly
- as a group, decide on the following: party issues/platform, party symbol, and groups the party will appeal to through the website.
- each student must write on an issue.

Party Project Website Guide

Required Elements: 100 points possible

News: 3 headlines (15pts)

What is going on with your party? Do you have a candidate running for president? Has there been a misunderstanding or scandal you need to clear up? Has your party taken a stance on an important issue? Is your party relevant? Be creative!

Blog: 2 entries (10pts)

Who is writing your blog? Why are they blogging? Are you using your blog to connect with a core constituency? Is that clearly visible?

Take Action/Volunteer (5pts)

Are you giving your supporters a chance to help out? Suggestion: Block parties, house parties, phone trees, registering voters, etc.

History of the Party and Party Symbol (20pts)

How did your party begin? Reference other historical parties when telling the history of your own. What is your party symbol? Why? Do you explain the meaning of your symbol?

People/ Groups (15pts)

How are you going to appeal to various groups? Some groups include women, minorities, seniors, youth, and the LGBT community. You could also include groups like rural Americans, veterans, or particular religious groups to name a few. You must consider who your party platform would appeal to and why. You must prove to these groups that your party will benefit them in some way. You must choose a minimum of 3 groups.

Issues (30pts)

This is the most important part of your website. This is the part that defines your party and what it stands for. You must clearly explain your party's stance on as many issues as there a group members. You may discuss more than that if you'd like. You must include a summary of your party's position on the economy. The others are up to you and your group. Here are some suggestions:

Campaign and Political Reform, Education, Energy, Environmental Issues, Foreign Policy, Healthcare, National Security, Immigration, Social Security (Retirement), Tax Reform and Women's Issues.

Resources:

Websites highlighting political issues: (The websites below are just a few suggestions)

http://dir.yahoo.com/Government/U_S_Government/Politics/Political_Issues/

http://www.presidentialelection.com/Political_Issues/

<http://www.procon.org/>