

Debate I and Advanced Competitive Debate

US Presidential Politics

Ambrosi, Holt, Willard

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1. Daily Objective:

Review the historical beginnings of political parties in the United States.

2. Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started:

What's your first impression of the following political parties?

Democratic Party, Republican Party, Green Party, Constitution Party

3. Lesson/Activity:

Read this definition of [partisanship](#).

In the United States, we have [political parties](#). They aren't new.

Watch this video about the [Origins of Partisanship](#).

Then, read this: "The Founders did not intend to create a two-party system. As John Adams wrote, *"There is nothing which I dread so much as a division of the republic into two great parties, each arranged under its leader, and concerting measures in opposition to each other. This, in my humble apprehension, is to be dreaded as the greatest political evil under our Constitution."* However, as the country grew in the 1800s and the Electoral College, as outlined in the Constitution, evolved into a "winner-take-all" system in which three or more strong parties would make it impossible to get to the required 270 electoral votes to win a presidential election, a two-party system emerged." ("Political Parties: Two Is Company, Three's a Crowd – Lesson Plan."

PBS, Public Broadcasting Service, 28 Oct. 2016,

www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/lessons-plans/political-parties-two-is-company-threes-a-crowd-lesson-plan/)

4. Practice:

- What was the core disagreement between Federalists and Anti-Federalists?
- What compromise was reached?
- What political disagreement exists today that would be similar to the disagreement between Federalists and Anti-Federalists?
- Which of the political parties listed in the bellringer are considered "third parties"?

5. Additional Resources:

Practice Question Answers:

1. Federalists advocated for a strong, centralized national government. Anti-Federalists worried about the national government having too much power and wanted to give more power to the States.
2. The [Bill of Rights](#) was added to the Constitution in an effort to give both parties what they wanted. The Bill of Rights explained the things that the national government could not do.
3. Varies
4. Green Party, Constitution Party