

Debate I and Advanced Competitive Debate

US Presidential Politics

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1. Daily Objective:

Examine major party political platforms.

2. Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started:

Do you know what a [political party platform](#) is?

Listen or read [this](#) article. Even though it's four years old, it provides a pretty good, brief overview of political party platforms.

3. Lesson/Activity:

According to Lee Payne, associate professor at Stephen F. Austin State University, in an [article in 2016](#) "Overall, Democrats in Congress voted for positions that matched their platforms 74 percent of the time in the past 30 years, while Republicans did so 89 percent of the time."

Considering this, let's look into the two major US party platforms. These were written in 2016. The next political party platform won't be written until the party's political convention in 2020 ([Democratic Convention](#) and [Republican Convention](#)).

4. Practice:

Political party platforms are really, really, really long. But, they are worth exploring! Skim/scan through each major party's platform.

[Democratic Party platform](#)

[Republican Party platform](#)

For each party, make a chart with 3 columns:

- Agree with
- Not important to me
- Disagree with

If you already have strong opinions about these parties, try to find ONE thing you can agree with for the platform you believe you strongly disagree with.

If you do not have strong opinions about either of these parties, try to find several things you can agree with for each platform.

5. Additional Resources:

<https://www.icivics.org/>

<https://www.icivics.org/games>