

# AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

ELECTORAL POLITICS: POLITICAL PARTIES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Forming a Political Party

## STEP 1: KEY VALUES

Which of the key values below do you most identify with, in terms of what you believe about government?



**Liberty**  
means that people have the freedom to do things that they want to do.



**Equality**  
means that everyone is treated fairly and has an equal chance.



**Competition**  
means that people are encouraged to compete to succeed.



**Cooperation**  
means that people are encouraged to work together to get things done.



**Cost Saving**  
means that the government is not spending a lot of money.



**Generosity**  
means the government is providing large benefits or services to citizens.

Pick your **NUMBER ONE** choice.

Ready to make your choice official? Visit [mrpeyton.com](http://mrpeyton.com), go to the **American Government** section, and click on the link for the Mock Election. Under your class heading, select the **Key Values Survey** link to choose.

The **top three** choices of the class will become the key values of the political party that will be formed. These values will shape the sorts of positions the party takes on various political issues, and the various specific policies that candidates will propose during the campaign.

## STEP 2: POLITICAL ISSUES

Political parties try to appeal to as many voters as possible so they can gain power. This means addressing issues that are important to people (especially around election time) in a way that is popular, but still in keeping with their values. Over time, the issues that are most important to the public change in their level of importance in response to the state of the economy, threats to national health and security, major national or international events, etc.

Choose **six** issues from the list below that you believe the party should focus on for this election cycle and circle them.

Then select the **Platform Issues Survey** link on the **Mock Election** page to submit your choices.

Abortion	The Environment	Immigration
Budget & The Economy	Families & Children	Infrastructure & Technology
Civil Rights	Foreign Policy	Jobs
Corporations	Free Trade	Principles & Values
Crime	Government Reform	Social Security
Drugs	Gun Control	Tax Reform
Education	Health Care	War & Peace
Energy & Oil	Homeland Security	Welfare & Poverty

### STEP 3: THE PLATFORM

What a party believes about key political issues and how the government should respond to them is written down in a document known as their **platform**. The platform is made up of **planks** – what the party believes about each issue. After narrowing down the list to six issues as a class, record them below, along with the general position of the class.

Remember, your party positions **must align with your top three key values**.

Issue	Party Position
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

### STEP 4: PARTY IDENTIFICATION

Political parties have a name, a mascot, and a color. Republicans, for example, utilize the elephant and the color red. Democrats utilize the donkey and the color blue. What shall this class's party name, mascot, and color be?

<b>Party Name</b>	<b>Party Color</b>
<b>Party Mascot/Symbol</b>	