

Problem Solvers: Political Party Edition!



You have been chosen to represent your political party – either Federalist or Republican. In a small team you will come up with a solution to your assigned problem that fits in with the political philosophy of your party. Your own personal opinion is not relevant today. You must come up with a solution that your party would support.

Instructions:

1. Write a short summary of the main beliefs of your party that we discussed yesterday.
2. Read over your issue carefully. Make sure everyone on your team understands it. Write a short summary/explanation of the problem.
3. Discuss as a group how your party might solve the problem. Write out your solution, in detail.
4. Explain how your chosen solution fits the beliefs of your party.
5. Prepare to defend your solution. You will be arguing for your solution to the opposing party. Try to think about how they will argue against it and prepare to PROVE THEM WRONG.

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Scenarios:

1. Huawei, a Chinese cell phone maker, has invented a cell phone that charges from static electricity in your pocket meaning the battery never dies. It has a beautiful screen and more power than any phone currently on the market and costs less.

Problem: Apple, an American company, is greatly threatened by this new phone. They believe it will cause iPhone sales to drop so dramatically that they will have to cut jobs and their stock price will drop significantly harming American investors. What do you do based on your political viewpoint?

2. In the latest election less than 1/3rd of eligible Americans voted. The highest percentage of voters came from those who are high-income and well educated. The lowest came from those who are low income and poorly educated.

Problem: When asked why two main reasons were given. First, people said they just didn't have time. Voting takes places on one single day of the year from 7 am to 8 pm. Second, people said the government doesn't listen to them anyway so why bother? What do you do based on your political viewpoint?

3. In order to make American students more competitive with those around the world the Federal government has taken over many aspects of education – even though it is not a Constitutional responsibility.

Problem: In order for states to receive federal money for schools they must agree to follow the Common Core State Standards. Some states, like Texas, have argued that the federal government has no right to tell them what to teach their students. What do you do based on your political viewpoint?

4. In the last five years thousands of Americans have lost their homes to foreclosure due to being unable to pay their bills to their banks. When this happens banks take the homes and sell them to another buyer – often an investor looking to sell the house for profit.

Problem: By removing people from their homes banks are harming families and causing the government to spend more money supporting them. On the other hand, the people did not pay their bills as they had promised. What do you do based on your political viewpoint?

5. Approximately 1/5th of the US budget is spent on the military.

Problem: Every dollar spent on defense is a dollar not spend on something else. Still, we live in a dangerous world where being able to defend ourselves is important. What do you do based on your political viewpoint?

6. American businesses are complaining that they can't find enough workers to fill low-wage, physical jobs. They have suggested allowing more immigrants into the country to fill those jobs.

Problem: American workers argue that the reason those jobs aren't being filled is that business owners aren't paying enough. If more immigrants are allowed in they will take those jobs at low wages harming American workers and families. What do you do based on your political viewpoint?