# Political Party Project

**<u>Student Objective</u>: Students will create a fictional political party reflecting their own personal ideology.**

**Assignment Components:** There will be 3 components to this assignment. Component # 1 is the naming of the political party. Component # 2 is the creation of a party symbol. Component # 3 is the development of a party platform based on the topics I choose for your party to address.

**Component # 1:** Party Name. You cannot choose a party name that is currently recognizable in today's society. You may choose any name you wish, but you must also explain why you chose that party name. It must correlate to something political. You cannot call yourself the Hot Dog Party, and state your reason for choosing it is because the people in your party like hot dogs. Be creative, and don't be afraid to tie your party name and symbol together. Your only requirement in naming this party is to be able to defend your party's name in a logical manner.

**Component # 2:** Party Symbol. You cannot choose a symbol currently recognizable in today's society either. Be creative and look to tie your symbol into your party name. As before, you must be able to explain why you chose your party symbol. It must make sense in a political sense. You can choose to be called the Teddy Bear Party (nobody can take this one now) if you can explain why you chose that name, and why you would, obviously, choose a teddy bear as your party's symbol.

**Component # 3:** Party Platform. This is the most important component of the project. A party platform is a statement of ideas in relation to the "topics of the day." I will provide each class with different sets of topics and may even assign certain people within classes different sets of topics to avoid repetition. You will simply state your party's goals and ideas concerning the assigned topic. Please refer to the guide I will provide on the topics to get an idea of what kind of information I am looking for. You are not limited to the ideas/suggestions I provide for party platforms. So long as you present a defense of your party's platform (explain why you think the way that you think), I do not care how extreme the positions you put forward are on the political spectrum.

**<u>ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS</u>**:

1) This assignment MUST be typed (ZERO IF NOT TYPED)
2) The cover page will include both your party name and a picture of your party's symbol. I will review what a cover page is, and how I expect yours to look. (ZERO IF NOT INCLUDED)
3) The assignment will be due on the date assigned. Anything handed in late will be given a ZERO. You will have more than enough time to work on this assignment and there should be no excuses for a project not to be handed in.
4) All work will be original. I will spot parties that have the same ideologies. Anyone thought to be cheating will earn all persons involved a ZERO.
5) This project will represent a TEST GRADE for the 3rd Quarter. Failure to complete it will result in a test grade of ZERO for the 3rd quarter, which will seriously affect your quarter grade.

**List of Topics:** The following are the topics that will be randomly assigned, per class, that you must use to develop a party platform. Remember, you must look at each topic from the standpoint of fixing a problem versus the costs associated with fixing the problem. Remember, no government has an infinite supply of money. There has to be a limit to how much money is spent by the government. Also, remember you need to have clear, decisive opinions. If you waver or have conditions that apply to a topic, explain what they are clearly and why you believe they merit consideration. For example, if abortion was a topic and your party was clearly against abortion except in the case of rape, you would have to state that condition and why you feel abortion is justifiable in that one situation. Here are the list of topics you will be assigned:

**TAXES SAME SEX RIGHTS DEATH PENALTY**
**ALTERNATIVE ENERGY IMMIGRATION**

**TAXES -** What does your party think should be the country's stance on taxes? A flat rate is an option whereby all citizens are taxed at the same rate. A progressive tax rate is an option where citizens are taxed based on their income. The more a citizen makes, the more they are taxed. Discuss which tax option your party believes in, and why your party chooses that option. Explain your choice.

**SAME-SEX RIGHTS –** The issue of same-sex marriages becoming legal in all 50 states is a very hot topic right now. States have the power to regulate marriage laws. Do you think the Federal Gov't should pass a law/amendment legalizing same-sex marriages throughout the United States? Remember the separation of church and state when answering this question.

**ALTERNATIVE ENERGY –** Scientists agree that the world's major sources of energy, known as fossil fuels, are nonrenewable. That means they will run out eventually. What can the government do to address this problem?

**IMMIGRATION –** The United States is a nation built on immigration. The problem facing the country is illegal immigration. People sneak into this country without permission or stay longer than they were originally allowed to stay. How should the government deal with illegal immigrants? Do we deport them? What if they have families here in the United States? Does the reason they came to this country matter at all? Explain your choices fully.

**DEATH PENALTY –** This is another issue largely controlled at the state level, but is a hot topic in national elections. Is your party in favor of the death penalty or squarely against its use? Please explain why you are for/against the death penalty as a means of punishment in our current judicial system.

# ***SCORING RUBRIC***

POLITCAL PARTY NAME 10 POINTS

Points will be based on the creativity of the name and an explanation of why you chose your party's name, meaning you must clearly explain your party's name. Try to tie your party name to your party symbol with some sort of logic. Again, if you went with the Teddy Bear Party, you would obviously choose a teddy bear as your symbol. The thing is, can you explain why you chose the name in terms of politics? Perhaps, you chose that name b/c you would be comforting to the people, like a teddy bear?

POLITICAL PARTY SYMBOL 15 POINTS

Points will be based on the creativity of the symbol you choose for your party as well as the explanation of how the symbol relates to your party's name and way of thinking. Please try and cut/paste a symbol through Microsoft Word. If you need help in knowing how to do that, I will be happy to explain it to you. Again, remember that you have to be able to tie your symbol to your party name and give some logical political reasoning for choosing it. The Teddy Bear Party would have an easy symbol choice, but what does your symbol represent? The symbol could represent an appeal to all people as teddy bears are used by most cultures as a symbol of comfort. You could be using it to bridge cultural lines within this country and bring everyone together as one.

POLITICAL PARTY PLATFORM 25 PTS/EACH

Points will be equal for the 3 topics assigned to your project. Each component carries 25 points toward your total project grade. Various factors will go into each component. The key factors I will be looking at are how you address each topic, and whether you completely address what your party's position on the topics are. You must be clear in your explanations. Take your time and proofread your work. In addition, spelling/grammar/neatness will be considered in this scoring category as well. Remember, this section is worth a total of 75 points. You should take your time, and triple-check your work in this area.