

FP.C&G.2.8

Analyze America's two-party system in terms of the political and economic views that led to its emergence and the role that political parties play in American politics (e.g., Democrat, Republican, promotion of civic responsibility, Federalists, Anti-Federalists, Influence of third parties, precincts, "the political spectrum", straight ticket, canvass, planks, platform, etc.).

Students will understand:

1. A nation's political systems are often comprised of adversarial groups which must find ways to resolve conflict and balance competing interests.
2. Alternative political parties play an important role in the debate over policy and government. (Frequent and free elections in a representative government, individual responsibility)

Students will know:

1. The history, development and characteristics of the two-party system. (Frequent and free elections in a representative government)
2. The dominant political parties and platforms in the United States and their distinguishing characteristics, as well as how these parties and platform may have changed over time. (frequent and free elections in a representative government)
3. How the dominant political parties in the United States attempt to balance the competing interests of their members. (Frequent and free elections in a representative government)
4. Advantages and disadvantages of a two-party system. (Frequent and free elections in a representative government)
5. How political parties allow citizens to participate in government. (Frequent and free elections in a representative government, individual responsibility)
6. The definition and importance of civic responsibility to a political system. (Frequent and free elections in a representative government, individual responsibility) Examples of and the role of alternative parties in the American system of politics
 - a. For example: Alternative parties bring up new ideas or press for action on certain issues. (Frequent and free elections in a representative government, individual responsibility)
7. Third parties can change the outcome of elections by drawing votes away from one of the main parties. (Frequent and free elections in a representative government, individual responsibility)

Key Terminology:

- Civic responsibility - A civic responsibility is a duty each citizen of a country owes the country. There are tangible and intangible civic responsibilities. Intangible civic responsibilities would be things like: Being an informed voter, contributing to the common good, and obeying the law. Tangible responsibilities are jury duty and voting for a president or in local elections.
- Political system - A system involving government and its politics, which includes the members who are in power within a country. A system by which a body of people is administered and regulated.
- Political issues - are matters which directly or indirectly affect a system involving government and its politics and are considered to be problems and controversies related to power and authority.