



YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2020 Volume III: Politics and Public Policy in the United States

What Have You Done For Me Lately; A Tale of Two Parties

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Our Founding Fathers did not intend to create a two-party system, yet, our government has evolved into a “winner-take-all” system in which two major parties emerged. These two party that dominate American government is the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. In this curriculum unit, the students will read, analyze, and research the intricacies of how political parties work in the American political system political system. Students will learn about the role of political parties in the United States and the influence parties have in our political system, including the role of third parties. This unit will cover the history and trend of party ideologies and explores the phenomena of why marginalized groups vote the way they do. Students will research the history, trend, and policies of each political parties ultimately concluding what political parties have done for them.

This curriculum unit is design to be taught in a 12th grade Advance Placement U.S. Government and Politics class, but can be adapted for 12th grade government, 11th grade Advanced Placement United States History and 11th grade United States History.

(Developed for Government and AP U. S. Government and Politics, grade 12; recommended for Government and AP U. S. Government and Politics, grade 12; and AP U. S. History, and U. S. History, grade 11)

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