

Political Parties Now

Ever since the time of *George Washington*, political parties have played a huge role in politics and government. How well do you know the platforms (beliefs) of the two major American political parties: Democrats and Republicans?

Directions:

1. Read each statement. If you agree with it, place an X in the first column.
2. Work with a partner to research which party agrees with each statement.

Agree	Party	Statement
		We believe tax cuts for all levels of society will increase consumer spending and lead to growth in America's economy.
		We want to open the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil exploration and drilling to reduce US dependence on foreign oil.
		We oppose expanding health insurance- it would create a large federal agency for insuring 50 million Americans. Our govt is already too invasive.
		We support the middle class and poor of American society with government programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.
		We support strong gun control laws such as the Assault Weapons ban, and want to place a 30-day waiting period on the purchase of handguns.
		We oppose large increases in defense spending because it takes away from programs like public schools, child care, and assistance for America's cities.
		We support taxpayer funded scholarships called vouchers to allow poor students to transfer to private schools in order to get a better education.
		We are suspicious of business and feel that the government must make more laws about labor relations, pollution, and corporate greed.
		We tend to be more willing to use American forces overseas. To make the military stronger, we tend to support more spending on troops and weapons.
		We should reduce America's need for oil by investing in alternative energy sources such as wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal sources.
		We believe abortions should not be practiced in the United States.
		Marriage is a human right and should not be restricted by sexual orientation or gender identity.
		States should not provide social services or other privileges of citizenship without proof of citizenship.
		English should be the only language used for legal documents and laws requiring other languages to be used should be eliminated.
		Nuclear power should be limited until it is environmentally safe and the long-term waste disposal system is set up.
		We support Guantanamo Bay and military tribunals. Enemy combatants do not deserve rights or privileges for U.S. citizens.

