

U.S. Government

MistaBale

Unit 2 Review Sheet

Group Political Participation

Primary Topics:

- 1) Political Ideology
- 2) Political Parties
- 3) Media
- 4) Interest Groups

Key Areas of Study:

- How key demographics are more likely to identify as liberal or conservative (sex, race, socio-economic status, age, religion, union or not, urban vs. rural, etc.)
- How the 2-D one line ideology spectrum may be an ineffective way of describing people's feelings. Also, why political scientists have tried to make new ones... what do they hope to be able to show or improve on?
- Key areas of Socialization for our political ideas. The three primary ways, and the supporting ways as well.
- Why political parties exist. What do they try to do that would be difficult for an individual to accomplish by oneself?
- Third parties. Understanding how third parties occasionally break in, and why they traditionally don't. What elements can third parties contribute even if they don't win seats?
- What is a negative element associated with third parties in a two party system?
- Basic groups or ideologies that create the modern Republican and Democratic parties
- How the parties have changed over time, and how have key movements in society forced change in the parties and/or created and broke up coalitions.
- What has happened to political affiliation over the years? Where do people currently stand in terms of identifying.
- How might the US be very different if we had a system that gave seats based on popular vote?
- Types of News information. How does Hard News differ from Opinion News and ultimately Rumor/Hearsay?
- How do commercials aim to be the persuasive force in people's minds, and why are they often successful?
- Why might the trend of Social Media increasing as people's primary news source be concerning?
- What tools do Interest Groups have to do their jobs.
- Understand both big-money lobbying and grassroots strategies for IGs
- What the challenges faced by small IGs? What about large IGs? How do each attempt to combat these challenges?
- Be familiar with several nationally active Interest Groups and the techniques they use to get their messaging across and goals accomplished.
- Understand why Interest Groups and Political parties are seen as more influential in the United States based on the systems of Federalism and organized elections than in other comparable 1st world democracies.