

Midterm Essay Assignment

10 April 2018

Spring semester

100 points possible

Due Date: 20 April 2018 by 11:59pm

Late papers are not accepted.

Every four years the 50 Democrat and 50 Republican Parties in the USA meet in convention with delegates to choose their party's candidate for president and vice-president. The President is the only person voted upon by the entire nation and represents all Americans. At the convention in the summer before the election in November, the delegates agree upon their political platform. This platform represents the promises they make concerning how their candidate will deal with various national issues such as immigration policy.

Your assignment for 100 points will focus on the differences in ideology and policy between Democrats and Republicans (Progressive Liberals and Conservatives).

The assignment is to describe and explain the perfect Democrat or Republican presidential candidate.

You can decide which party you wish to represent. Once you decide, write a one to two page, single-spaced essay describing the values and policy objectives of your candidate in the 2020 Presidential Election.

I have provided you with a list of political views associated with Democrats and Republicans. Your prefect candidate must remain true to these values. For example, you would not have a Democrat presidential candidate proposing smaller government. You will be graded by how well the positions you choose fit the typical image we have of a conservative or liberal.

Please use sources I provide in class and on our website, including the textbook. You do not need to go outside this class for information or use source citations. I have provided short informational videos discussing the differences politically

between liberals and conservatives. Chapters 8-9 in the textbook may also be helpful.

At the end of the essay please provide a short summary whether your candidate's party is close to the original intent of the Founders? (see Framework for Analysis)

Here are the two names of the presidential candidates:

Senator Isabel Avery from the State of Texas (Republican)

Governor George Connor of Oregon (Democrat)

Choose One!

Comparison of Democrat and Republican Parties.

We know that the way the Constitution structures our electoral system encourages a two party system. Additionally the two-party system reflects the binary nature of our political values.

The Democrats were founded by President Andrew Jackson in the 1820s. The party was referred to as the "Party of the Periphery" or the party of the edges. They played to the needs of immigrants or workers. The Republican Party emerged from the old Federalist and Whig Parties in the 1850s. They were the party of liberty and property (see campaign poster). They appealed to business and middle class interests.

The Democrats were more oriented toward the value of equality (Politics can make strange bedfellows). Originally, the Democrats were mostly in the South and supported State's Rights in order to defend the institution of slavery. Northern Democrats were supportive of the abolitionist wing of the Democrat Party. The Republican Abolitionists were stronger in the North from New England to the mid-west.

Today the two-parties in the 21st century have drawn apart both electorally and geographically. The old South, the mid-west and Alaska are strongholds of the Republicans. The Democrats are strong in northeast and the east and west seaboard of the US plus Hawaii.

Philosophically the two parties are as far apart as any time since the Civil War. Current hot button issues include abortion, immigration, education 2nd Amendment and foreign policy.

Conservatives Values

Individual Rights

Defining happiness individually

Cannot have equality without liberty

Property rights

Small and local government

Lower taxes Legal equality

Deregulation

Cautiously Optimistic about human nature (Realists)

Progressive Liberal

Equality of condition and outcome trumps liberty

Secular

Planning, social engineering to produce a more equitable society.

Many government run social programs to narrow the inequality gap

Large bureaucracy

High taxes in name of social justice to redistribute wealth between haves and have-nots

Heavy regulation to ensure redistribution of wealth.

Very optimistic about molding people with education to an agreed upon set of norms.

Conservative and Liberal Ideologies and Values

Thomas Sowell, The Difference between Liberal and Conservative

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KHdhrNhh88>

Liberal vs Conservative: 24 Hours Side by Side

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Po6arNswfn8>

Liberals and Conservatives Fight Labels and Stereotypes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbh64LX6-HY>

Political Ideology: Left and Right

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_k_k-bHigM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xz_CKpQeJY what are conservatives – college students

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=conservative+economists Conservatism explained

Left Wing and Left Wing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIQ5fGECmsA>

What Do Republicans Believe?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVF5Ehyedqs>

What do Democrats Believe?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEqTJYwTpU8>