



# Interactive Reading Notepad

## Lesson 11.1 Political Parties and What They Do

Use a separate piece of paper or a Word Document in office 365 to respond to all questions. I recommend completing this homework *as you read*.

**Key Terms** – write down and create a cognitive dictionary (model provided) for 50% of all terms from assigned sections by writing the word, writing down what you think it means, then define each in your own words on a piece of binder paper. Focus on words you do not know. As added practice, EITHER use the term properly in a sentence OR draw a picture that demonstrates the meaning of the word in a visual way (may not be applicable).

Cognitive Dictionary Example/model:

| Word    | What do you think it means? | Actual Definition  | Properly use word in a sentence.        |
|---------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Element | A part of something         | Factor; ingredient | Pasta is just one element of spaghetti. |

political party  
 political spectrum  
 partisanship  
 single-member districts  
 plurality  
 bipartisan  
 consensus

coalition  
 ideological  
 single-issue parties  
 economic protest parties  
 splinter parties  
 ward  
 precinct

### What Is a Political Party?

- 1. Draw Conclusions** The text defines a political party as “a group of persons who seek to control government through the winning of elections and the holding of public office.” Does this definition apply to the Republican and Democratic parties in the United States?

### The Role of Political Parties

- 2. Cite Evidence** Provide an example of a political party performing the following roles: **(a)** nominating, **(b)** informing and activating, **(c)** serving as a bonding agent, **(d)** governing, **(e)** serving as a watchdog.

### The Two-Party System

- 3. Apply Concepts** in George Washington's 1796 Farewell Address, he warned the new nation against "the baneful effects of the spirit of party." What do you think Washington meant by this comment?
- 4. Use Visual Information** Study the diagram of the political spectrum. Explain the differences between a conservative and a liberal.
- 5. Identify Supporting Details** As you read "The Two-Party System" and the following two texts, use this graphic organizer to record details about major and minor parties.

| Identify Supporting Details |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Major Parties               | Minor Parties |
|                             |               |

### Multiparty and One-Party Politics

6. **Compare and Contrast** Compare and contrast two-party with multiparty systems, noting the strengths and weaknesses of each.

### Third and Minor Parties in the United States

7. **Draw Conclusions** State three reasons why a person might wish to vote for a minor party candidate in a presidential election.

### The Decentralized Nature of the Parties

8. **Determine Central Ideas** What does it mean to say that the major parties in American politics are decentralized? Would a more centralized political party be effective at winning elections?

### National Party Functions

9. **Analyze Interactions** Between presidential elections, what does the national committee of each party do?

### State and Local Party Functions

10. **Use Visual Information** Study the diagram of the State and local party organization. What is the largest division shown in the diagram? The smallest?

## Lesson 11.3 Electing the President

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presidential primary  
winner-take-all  
proportional representation  
keynote address  
swing voters

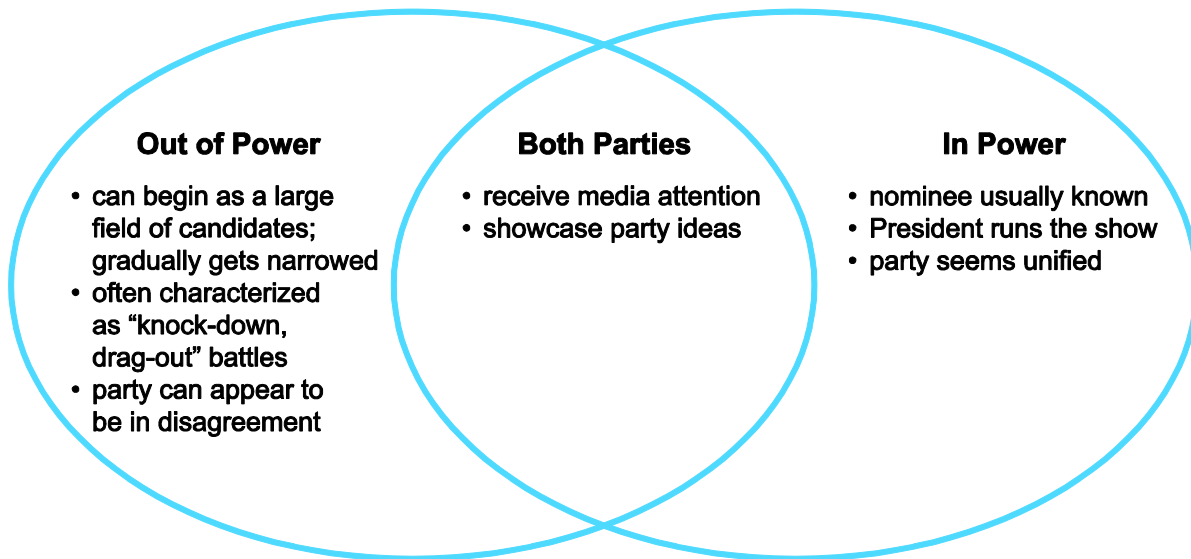
battleground States  
district plan  
proportional plan  
national popular vote plan

## Presidential Primaries

1. **Summarize** What factors led to the adoption of the presidential primary system by the majority of States?

## Evaluation of the Presidential Primary

2. **Compare and Contrast** Using the graphic organizer and information from the text, write a comparison-contrast paragraph about out-of-power vs. in-power presidential primaries.



## Who Is Nominated?

3. **Distinguish Among Fact, Opinion, and Reasoned Judgment** Read this statement: "Ideas about just who is an electable presidential candidate have changed more since 2008 than in the history of presidential elections." Based on evidence in the text, is this statement a fact, an opinion, or a reasoned judgment?

## The Presidential Campaign

4. **Paraphrase** Suppose you are a voter living in a battleground State. In your own words, describe what you should expect to experience during a presidential campaign.

## Electoral College Scenarios

5. **Explain an Argument** If the candidate who wins the most popular votes might still lose the election, how do Americans almost always know who the winner is at the end of Election Day?

## Proposed Reforms and a Defense

6. **Summarize** How do States' rights figure into the electoral college debate?

# Lesson 11.4 Money and Elections

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political action committee (PAC)  
Super PAC  
subsidy  
FECA  
BCRA

soft money  
Federal Election Commission (FEC)  
Presidential Election Campaign Fund  
hard money  
527 organization

## The Price of An Election

1. **Determine Central Ideas** The text states that the getting and spending of campaign funds can corrupt the entire political process. Explain how this could happen.

## Where the Money Comes From

2. **Identify Supporting Details** How do politicians pay for political campaigns? Who provides the money to pay for campaign expenses?

## Federal Finance Laws

3. **Draw Inferences** What do you think President Obama meant when he commented that the *Citizens United* case might “open the floodgates for special interests”?

## FEC Requirements

4. **Draw Conclusions** How does the FEC protect the political process from corruption by special interests?
5. **Analyze Interactions** Look at the graph of the top ten PAC spenders in 2016. Why do you think that many PACs contributed both to Democrats and to Republicans?

## Loopholes in Finance Laws

6. **Analyze Sequence** Did the Supreme Court’s ruling in the *Citizens United* case affect campaign spending in 2012? Explain.