

Activity Three: Sizing Up a Political Party by Examining the Record

Despite George Washington’s warning to avoid the creation of partisan politics, political parties soon developed in the United States. By about the time of the Civil War the Democratic and Republican parties had emerged to dominate the political landscape.

Making good choices about who we elect depends on having good information about the candidates, and the issues, we are presented with. Traditionally this information was organized and provided by the party. Though you may be too young to actually cast a vote, you are not too young to begin “examining the record” of the two major political parties in the United States and to think about where you might fit.

Think about how you feel concerning each of the issues below and fill in the first column in the chart. Now do a little research and identify where each of the major political parties stand on each of the issues. There are three spaces for additional issues that might be important to you.

Which party do you most closely identify with? Is that who you would support in future elections?

Topic or Issue	Your Views on the Topic	Republican Party Views	Democratic Party Views
Crime			
Education			
Government Spending			
Gun Violence			
Immigration			
Taxes			
Trade			
The Environment			

