

# PARTY SYSTEM

## STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES

	Strength or weakness?	Which kind of party system?
1) There are <u>too few parties for citizens to choose from.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> multiple
2) The <u>public has almost no voice.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> multiple
3) Party <u>platforms must appeal to so many people</u> that party members can't agree on core beliefs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> multiple
4) <u>Parties have to work together</u> to get things done.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> multiple
5) More parties have a say in government so <u>everyone can join a party they believe in.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> multiple
6) There is <u>no opportunity for opposing views</u> to be represented.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> multiple
7) Too many parties create divisions and make it <u>hard for the government to accomplish reform.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> multiple
8) <u>Reform is easy</u> because there is no opposition.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> multiple
9) Encourages parties to create broad <u>platforms that include many types of voters.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> multiple

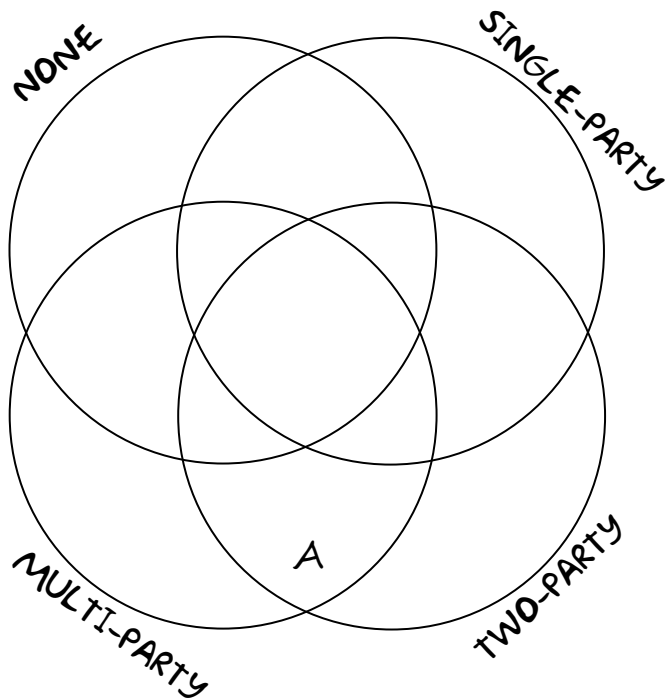
# One Big Party?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Matching.** Match each key term with its definition.

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. political party     | A. Two major political parties hold all the power  |
| _____ 2. single-party system | B. A person's ideas about how government should run and how issues should be solved                |
| _____ 3. public policy       | C. Political system with one political party   |
| _____ 4. minority party      | D. Political party with the most elected members   |
| _____ 5. two-party system    | E. The stand the government takes about how issues should be handled                               |
| _____ 6. platform            | F. Three or more political parties have officials elected to office                                |
| _____ 7. political views     | G. An organized group of people who share similar political views and work to influence government |
| _____ 8. multi-party system  | H. Set of statements describing a party's views on major issues                                    |
| _____ 9. candidate           | I. Political party that does not have a majority of the elected members                            |
| _____ 10. majority party     | J. A person running for political office   |

**B. Crazy Quadra-Venn!** Do the different party systems have anything in common? Decide whether each characteristic on the list applies to party systems with 0, 1, 2, or multiple parties. Find the right spot on the 4-way Venn diagram (if you can!) and write the letter there. The first one is done for you.



- A. Likely to be found in a democracy.
- B. Illegal to oppose the main party
- C. Usually found in countries that are not democracies.
- D. Citizens can belong to a political party.
- E. Some parties don't have as much power as others.
- F. Two parties hold all the power
- G. Individual citizens have personal political views.
- H. Government includes elected officials from more than two parties.
- I. Political parties don't exist.
- J. Usually found where citizens have little or no influence on government.
- K. Found in the United States.
- L. Citizens are ruled by a government.

# One Big Party?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Five Roles of Political Parties.** Read each example of political parties at work. Decide which of the 5 roles the example best illustrates. Write the underlined letter in the button next to the example.



**Support Candidates**



**Influence Laws & Policy**















**Unite Levels of Government**



**Create Balance**



**Influence Voters**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1)  Party leaders meet with a senator who is not supporting the party's platform on environmental issues.</p> <p>2)  A party's state office asks party members to write their legislators and ask them to vote "no" on a state tax bill.</p> <p>3)  A party's state office runs a phone bank before the election to call party supporters and remind them to support the party's candidates.</p> <p>4)  A party's state office hosts a conference for state and local officials to discuss the party's goals for the state.</p> <p>5)  A committee of legislators from one party meets to draft a law that will be acceptable to everyone in the party.</p> <p>6)  A group of legislators from the minority and majority parties meets to discuss compromise after a failed vote on a budget bill.</p> | <p>7)  A political party pays for a series of televised attack ads against a candidate from the other party.</p> <p>8)  A political party holds a huge convention to nominate and celebrate the party's presidential candidate.</p> <p>9)  A state governor meets with a city mayor and state senator from the same party to discuss the governor's policy on education.</p> <p>10)  The President refuses to sign a bill passed by the opposing party and meets with legislators to discuss possible changes.</p> <p>11)  Party volunteers spend a Saturday afternoon at the park handing out party-sponsored voting guides.</p> <p>12)  A new law passes the Senate, where one party has a majority, but fails in the House of Representatives, where the other party has a majority.</p> |
|--|--|

**D. The U.S. Two-Party System.** Draw lines to match each characteristic of the two-party system to a fact about political parties in the United States.

In two party systems...

Party platforms are so broad that many people believe a third party is needed.

Third parties rarely gain enough support to win elections.

Most citizens identify with one of the two major parties.

In the United States...

In 2012, 60 percent of Americans identified themselves as either a Republican or a Democrat.

In 2012, 46 percent of Americans thought a third major party was needed and 45 percent didn't.

In July 2012, only 7 percent of Americans planned to vote for a third-party presidential candidate.