Unit 2: Linkage Institutions (Parties, Interest Groups, Media)

Topic 1: Political Parties

What are political parties, and how do they function in our two-party system?

Political Party			
The Party as an		The Party in	The Party in the
NATIONAL CONVENTION 2012	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		
	6.		

Two-Party System with two major parties: and	Coalition:	
Both parties have to try to appeal to voters in th of the ideological spectrum		
Partisanship	Bipartisan	
Multi-Party systems:	One-Party systems:	
What did the Constitution say about political parties?	What did George Washington say about politic parties?	al
Two-Party Syste	m in US History	

Era of the Early Democrats 1800-1860 (Jefferson-Jackson)

Era of the Republicans 1860-1932 (Reconstruction-Depression)

Era of the Democrats 1932-1968 (New Deal - Great Society)

Era of Divided Government 1968-today

Why a Two-Party System?

•	Our Electoral System

- Each election only results in one winner for each office
- The winner is the one who gets the most votes (plurality) not necessarily a majority

Our Governing System -- The major parties control the rules