

THE MINOR PARTIES

Chapter 5 Section 3

Third Parties

- Which ones can you name?
 - Can you categorize them?
- Why do they form?
 - Now can you categorize them?

Minor Parties in the United States

- **Ideological Parties**

- Based on a particular set of beliefs – a comprehensive view of social, economic, and political matters. (Communist Party)

- **Single – Issue Parties**

- Focus on a single public question
- Name usually indicates primary concern (Free-Soil Party/Marijuana Party)

- **Economic Protest Party**

- Rooted in periods of economic discontent
- Proclaim their disgust with the major parties and demand better times. (The Greenback Party)

- **Splinter Parties**

- Parties that have split away from the major parties (Bull Moose Party)

Third Parties

- Look at the parties your group listed
 - Can you categorize them into these four categories?

Third Parties

- Most third parties are usually pretty short-lived – they come and go
- Why have them.....what roles do they play?

Why Minor Parties Are Important

- Most Americans do not support minor parties, but still have a considerable impact on American politics.
 - **They often play a “spoiler role” in an election.**
 - A minor party can pull enough support away from one of the major parties to affect the outcome of the election.
 - Example: The Green Party (Ralph Nader) in 2000
- Also, minor parties can introduce new ideas that the two major parties have not discussed in their platform.
 - **Major parties may adopt the ideas of a successful 3rd party.**
 - Can you think of examples?


Who Gets to Play?

- What must a party's candidate be able to do to win an election?
 - Participate in debates so people can learn about them
 - Be on the ballot so people can vote for them
- How do you get your name on the ballot?
 - A major party nominates you
 - Otherwise, you need signatures on a petition – the # and deadlines vary by state
- Who gets to be in the debates?
 - Candidates polling at least 15% of the electorate
 - Who makes those rules?
 - The Commission on Presidential Debates....run by the two major parties

Third Party Mini-Project

- With a partner, you will create your own third party (and a poster or brochure for it)
- See instructions for more detail
- Check the third party pages on my website for ideas

POLITICAL PARTY FLYER PROJECT



You are establishing a new political party. You must create a name, symbol, and slogan for your party. You will also need to construct a party platform. Your platform will consist of where your party stands on at least five current issues. You must have at least one issue in each of the main categories of political ideology: social, economic, and foreign policy issues.

To publicize your new party, you will need to create a flyer or poster representing it. Your new political party must include:

1. **NAME** for the party;
2. **SYMBOL** for the party;
3. **SLOGAN** for the party;
4. At least one related **VISUAL** (in addition to the symbol);
5. Where your party stands on **FIVE ISSUES**; and
6. **COLOR** (at least three)

In addition, you will also answer the following two questions in paragraph form.

1. What type of party do you have? What is the significance or meaning of your political party **AND** how does the name, symbol, and slogan relate to that significance or meaning?
2. In detail, how would this party stand on the five issues that are mentioned in the poster and why? (Develop your platform a bit more)

This project is worth a quiz grade. It is based on the following rubric:

Poster:	
Name, symbol, and slogan	5 points
Visual impact and engagement	5 points
Color and creativity	5 points
ESSAYS:	
Essay #1 meaning/significance/base explained	5 points
Name, symbol, and slogan are related	
Target base in the electorate makes sense	
Essay #2 stance on 5 Issues	10 points
Stance makes sense for the party's purpose	
Stance makes sense for the targeted base	
TOTAL	_____ /30 points