

Political parties play a key role in government and provide opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process.

*A two-party system characterizes the American political process.*

*Although third parties rarely win elections, they play an important role in public politics.*

**Third parties**

Introduce new ideas or press for a particular issue

Often revolve around a political personality (e.g., Theodore Roosevelt)

**Similarities between parties**

Organize to win elections

Influence Public Policies

Reflect both liberal and conservative views

Define themselves in a way that wins majority support by appealing to the political center

**Differences between parties**

Stated in a party's platform and reflected in campaigning

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the political process at the local, state, and national levels of government by:  
b) comparing the similarities and differences of political parties.