

## *Intro to Political Parties*

**Purpose:** Introduce a new topic to students. To present students with basic information about the first political parties: formation, function, and the role they played/continue to play in the United States government and society in general. Give students an outline and summary of the information presented in their text book and relate that to their everyday life. Lesson also used for addressing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade STANDARD: U4.1.3 (political divisions)

**Essential Question:** How did political parties form during Washington's presidency and why?  
-What effect does a two party system have on government? And what are the potential dangers?

### **Process:**

#### **Students will...**

- Be attentive and prepared to use the information presented to participate in an in-class discussion after.
- Listen to the presentation
- Ask questions for clarification
- Participate in class responses (Teacher asking questions to make sure of understanding)
- Leave the classroom understanding the fundamental differences between Federalists and Democratic-Republicans. (also the similarities/differences between their policies and that of current political beliefs)

#### **The Teacher will...**

- Prepare a powerpoint presentation covering materials pertaining to the current lesson (Introduction to Political Parties in the United States Government)
- Show a video to begin class. (Current Events – [www.theweekinrap.com](http://www.theweekinrap.com) )
- Briefly discuss the events from the video that may not be familiar with students.
- Use powerpoint to guide lecture.
- Ask the class the essential question. Then ask some other questions to find out what the class already knows.
- Give examples of personal experiences dealing with political parties
- Provide questions to the class every couple slides to make sure they are understanding the material (formative assessment)
- Explain the major objectives from the class (Differences between the two political parties: Federalists – Democratic-Republicans – and the leaders of both groups)
- Wrap up the lecture by bringing in current events such as school political issues. (ie. Gum chewing, dress code, tardy policy)
- Lead to discussion...

**Assessment:** Formative assessment during the lecture: asking students questions in between slides and asking students to explain a concept that you just covered.

**Materials:** Computer, Powerpoint presentation, projector, students willing to participate actively in class question/answer lecture format, loud/confident teacher voice.