

Unit 5: Political Parties

Essential Question:

How can ideologies unite or divide us?

Political Parties in America



Conceptual Lens:
Ideology

Vocabulary

Elections, General, Primary, Presidential, Electoral College, Voter qualifications, Voting process, Political ideologies, Political parties, Interest groups, Political action committees, Lobbyists, Propaganda, Mass media, Platform and planks

I can...

1. I can explain why we have a two party system in the U.S
2. I can describe the difference between the two major political parties
3. I can describe the political spectrum of ideas- radical, liberal, moderate, conservative, reactionary
4. I can example the purpose of a national convention, party platforms, and planks
5. I can describe what an interest group is and how it can influence elections
6. I can describe the role of a lobbyist in influencing elections
7. I can describe what a PAC is and the changing role of PAC's in recent political campaigns
8. I can analyze how propaganda and bias are used in political campaigns
9. I can describe the ways people use initiative, referendum, and recall to influence laws
10. I can list the constitutional qualifications to vote and evaluate state requirements
11. I can describe laws and amendments that have expanded suffrage throughout U.S. history
12. I can explain the purpose and process of a primary and general elections
13. I can explain the process of electing the President
14. I can evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the Electoral College

Main Ideas:

1. Compare and contrast the views of the two major political parties.
2. Describe the procedures and reasons for voting
3. Be able to order and describe the steps in the presidential election process
4. Identify the use of propaganda in real-life ads
5. Explain the role of interest groups in our political system

Content

Two-party system, Voting, Elections, Media, bias, propaganda, Interest groups

Preview Questions:

1. Why do people today have a problem with the Electoral College electing the President of the United States?
2. To what political party do you align yourself? Explain why.
3. Why do you think the US has only two major political parties? Can you list any other political parties?
4. What do you think will be the most important issues in the upcoming Presidential election?
5. Who donates the most money to Democrats during an election? Republicans?
6. How do interest groups influence public policy?
7. Why is it important for citizens to vote in every election (primaries and general)?
8. What problems would arise if voting was considered a duty for all Americans?
9. What is bias? What problems arise when a newspaper is being biased?
10. Which type of protest is more effective: violent or non-violent? Explain!

Essential Standards

CE.C&G.2.8

Analyze America's two-party system in terms of the political and economic views that led to its emergence and the role that political parties play in American politics (e.g., Democrat, Republican, promotion of civic responsibility, Federalists, Anti-Federalists, influence of third parties, precincts, "the political spectrum," straight ticket, canvass, planks, platform, etc.).

CE.C&G.3.6

Explain ways laws have been influenced by political parties, constituents, interest groups, lobbyists, the media and public opinion (e.g., extension of suffrage, labor legislation, civil rights legislation, military policy, environmental legislation, business regulation and educational policy).

CE.C&G.5.1:

Analyze the election process at the national, state and local levels in terms of the checks and balances provided by qualifications and procedures for voting (e.g., civic participation, public hearings, forums, at-large voting, petition, local initiatives, local referendums, voting amendments, types of elections, etc.).

Unit 5 Vocabulary

<u>Term</u>	<u>Description</u>
Spectrum	
Ideology	
Radical	
Liberal	
Moderate	
Conservative	
Reactionary	
Democrat	
Republican	
Political Party	
General Election	
Initiative	
Referendum	
Runoff	
Primary Election	
National Convention	
Campaign	
Canvassing	

<u>TERM</u>	<u>Description</u>
Electoral College	
Apathy	
Propaganda	
Lobbyist	
Super PAC	
Interest Groups	
Endorsement	
Platform	
Plank	
Open Primary	
Closed Primary	
Electors	
Bandwagon	
Glittering Generalities	
Stacked Cards	
Mudslinging	

Unit 5 Sneak Peek

Chapter 10, Section 1: A Two Party System Pg. 249-254

1. What is a political party?
2. When discussing the political spectrum, what political views between parties are being referenced?
3. What are the differences in the two parties of the US two party system?
4. What are the advantages of a two party system?
5. What is the major difference between a one-party, two-party, multi-party system?
6. What are two ways that a third party can influence politics and elections?

Chapter 10, Section 2: Political Party Organization Pg. 255-257

1. What is the purpose of each type of political party committee?
2. What role do parties play in the voting process at the local level?
3. What are the two ways that presidential campaigns may be financed?

Chapter 10, Section 3: The Right to Vote Pg. 259-261

1. How do primary elections differ from general elections?
2. How has voting changed over the last 200 years?

Chapter 10, Section 4: Nominating and Electing Leaders Pg. 263-265

1. Explain how the electoral college works.
2. What takes place at nominating conventions?

Chapter 11, section 1: Shaping Public Opinion Pgs. 272-276

1. What is public opinion and what factors shape these opinions?
2. What is the difference between concealed and revealed propaganda? How do each influence public opinion?
3. Which propaganda technique is the most influential? Why?
4. What do polls measure?

Chapter 11, section 2: Interest Groups Pgs. 278-281

1. What are interest groups?
2. How do lobbyists try to influence government and public opinion?
3. Why do some people believe that lobbyists are two powerful in American politics?

Chapter 11, section 3: Taking Part in Government Pgs. 283-286

1. What are four ways that citizens can participate in government?
2. How do the results of the 2000 presidential election show the importance of voting?
3. How do interest groups participate in political campaigns?

Chapter 12, Section 1: Raising Money Pgs. 294-295

1. What are the main expenses of the federal government?
2. What are some taxes set at different rates?
3. Why do governments borrow money?

Chapter 12, Section 2: Types of Taxes Pgs. 299-303

1. What are the different types of income taxes?

2. What is a progressive tax?

3. Why is it good for governments to rely on a wide variety of taxes?

Chapter 12, Section 3: Managing the Country's Money Pgs. 305-308

1. Why is a state's comptroller of public accounts called a watchdog of the treasury?
2. How are the budget responsibilities divided among the executive and legislative branches?
3. How do governments and citizens ensure that public funds are being spent properly?
4. What is the purpose of a government budget?

Chapter 23, Section 1: Conducting Foreign Relations Pgs. 566 - 571

1. What are the goals of US foreign policy?
2. What are some of the president's diplomatic powers?
3. What are departments assist with foreign policy, and what are their duties?
4. Why did Congress reject the Treaty of Versailles?

Chapter 23, Section 2: Working for Peace Pgs. 572-578

1. How are defense alliances part of the nation's diplomacy?
2. Why does the United States give aid to foreign countries?

3. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of international environmental agreements?

Chapter 23, Section 3: The United States Pgs. 580-582

1. How is the UN General Assembly different from the Security Council?
2. What might the world be like today without the United Nations?

Chapter 24, Section 1: Development of US Foreign Policy, Pgs. 590-594

1. What early foreign policy challenges did the United States face?
2. Why do you think the United States became more involved in Latin American affairs?
3. Why did many Americans fear the end of isolationism?

Unit 5: Red, Blue, Shades of Gray

Concept: *Ideology*

Political Parties

- A _____ is an organization of individuals with broad, common interests who organize to win elections and influence policy.
- Ideology: _____
- The U.S. is dominated by two parties: _____ and _____.
 - _____ run, but rarely win major elections.
 - **Effects of our two-party system:**
 - **Influences of Third Parties**

One Party-System:

Examples:

Multi-Party System:

Examples:

Early American Political Parties:

Federalists v Anti-Federalists

Founding Fathers on Political Parties:

- A _____ is a set of beliefs that a political party supports.
- A _____ is an individual part of the platform.

The Political Spectrum



CE.C&G.2.8

Analyze America's two-party system in terms of the political and economic views that led to its emergence and the role that political parties play in American politics (e.g., Democrat, Republican, promotion of civic responsibility, Federalists, Anti-Federalists, influence of third parties, precincts, "the political spectrum," straight ticket, canvass, planks, platform, etc.).

Do you think that political parties are helpful in politics?

What would be a benefit of a one party system?

A Multi-party system?

Where do you fall on the political spectrum? Why?

The Two Parties

Democrats (democrats.org)	Republicans (RNC.org)

CE.C&G.2.8

Analyze America's two-party system in terms of the political and economic views that led to its emergence and the role that political parties play in American politics

What are some commonalities between the two parties and their ideologies?

Supporting the Political Parties

Fundraising / Campaign Finance

Interest Groups

Lobbyists

PACs

Super PACs

CE.C&G.3.6

Explain ways laws have been influenced by political parties, constituents, interest groups, lobbyists, the media and public opinion

Why are PACs and fundraising important and helpful in political campaigns?

Influencing Laws-

Which groups might be involved with these movements and what types of laws might they push for?

- Civil Rights Movement
- Environmental Law Influences
- Business Regulations
- Educational Reform
- Labor Legislation
- Military

Participating in Elections (Voting!)

Requirement to vote:

Suffrage:

Voting Rights Act of 1965:

Options for voting:

At Precinct:

- On Election Day
- Early Voting
- Absentee Ballot

Philosophies of voting:

- Straight ticket
- Split ticket
- At Large Voting

Voter apathy:

-Rock the Vote-

Other forms of Civic Participation:

Public Hearings

Forums

Petition

Canvassing

Voting Amendments:

CE.C&G.3.6

Explain ways laws have been influenced by political parties, constituents, interest groups, lobbyists, the media and public opinion

Why should we vote?

What happens if we don't vote?

What are the benefits of voting a straight ticket?

A split ticket?

Which is the most influential way we can participate outside of voting?

Which amendment do you think is most important for voters' rights? Why?

Electing the President: The Process

Primaries

Closed

Open

Caucuses

The National Convention

The Campaign

General Election

The Electoral College

Who:

What:

1. Each _____ has its OWN election.
2. The Candidate that wins the _____ of the popular vote in a state wins _____ the electoral votes (_____)
3. The _____ candidate to get to _____ votes wins the presidential election!

Controversies with the Electoral College:

CE.C&G.5.1:

Analyze the election process at the national, state and local levels in terms of the checks and balances provided by qualifications and procedures for voting (e.g., civic participation, public hearings, forums, at-large voting, petition, local initiatives, local referendums, voting amendments, types of elections, etc.).

Which step do you think is the most important in a presidential election? Why?

Do you think the Electoral College is effective? Why or why not?

Types of Elections:

General Elections

Issues Elections

Special Elections

Majority

Plurality

Special Elections

	Simple meaning	Definition	Example
Recall			
Initiative			
Referendum			
Bonds			

CE.C&G.5.1:

Analyze the election process at the national, state and local levels in terms of the checks and balances provided by qualifications and procedures for voting

How do voters' actions lead to a LESS democratic society?

How do special and issues elections create a more democratic society?

Influencing Voters

Types of Propaganda:

	Urges people to follow the crowd
	Information that sounds good but is meaningless
	Appeals to common people
	Having the support of famous people
	Uses popular symbols to create a positive or negative connotation/association
	Presents only one side of the issue and distorts facts
	Attacks a person or a policy with a name or label

Influencing Politics

- Interest groups:

Well-known interest groups include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AARP ○ ACLU ○ AMA ○ NAACP ○ NOW ○ NRA ○ PETA

- Lobbyists:
- PACs:
- Super PACs:
- Federal Election Commission
 - Campaign Reform Act
- Media (or "Mass Media")
- Public Opinion Polls
- Civil Disobedience

CE.C&G.3.6

Explain ways laws have been influenced by political parties, constituents, interest groups, lobbyists, the media and public opinion (e.g., extension of suffrage, labor legislation, civil rights legislation, military policy, environmental legislation, business regulation and educational policy).

Do you think Propaganda has an influence on politics and elections? Why or why not?

How do interest groups create a more democratic society and limit the government?

Which interest group would best represent you?

Do you think there should be limits on political parties in how they raise money, spend money, and campaign?

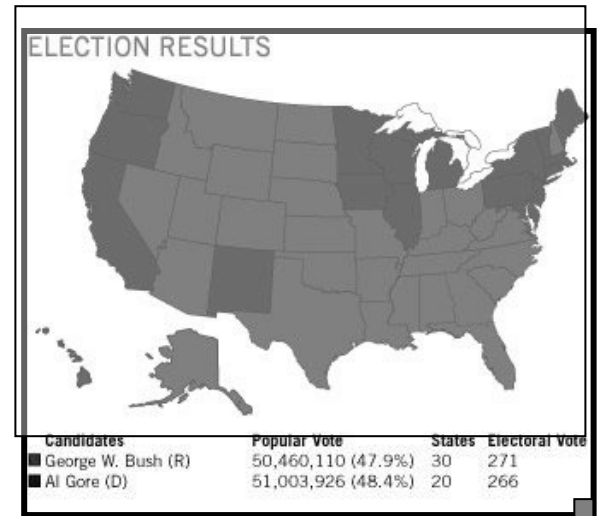
How might public opinion polls impact politics?

How does civil disobedience impact politics?

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

ORIGINS AND HOW IT WORKS

When you head to the booth this Tuesday, you won't actually be pulling the lever for John Kerry or George Bush. Rather, you will be casting a ballot for a slate of electors pledged to a particular candidate, who are then supposed to vote for the person you want to be president. The number of electors in each state is equal to the number of senators (two per state) plus the number of U.S. representatives, which varies according to the state's population as determined by the Census count every ten years. Presently, the Electoral College has 538 electors — 535 for the total number of senators and representatives plus three for Washington, D.C. Today, a candidate must receive 270 electoral votes to win.



The electors will meet in their respective state capitals to cast their votes for president and vice president on the Monday following the second Wednesday in December; it's as if the founders foresaw the need for recount time. The votes are sealed and sent to the president of the Senate, who opens and reads them before Congress on January 6th.

The reason we arrived at this system: Our founding fathers were all about compromise when they were choosing a mechanism for picking the president. One early idea was to have the Congress or the Senate decide, but that plan was nixed because it was felt that arrangement would have upset the government's balance of power and fostered corruption.

The founders feared a direct, winner-take-all election would be too reckless. Since travel and communication around the country was slow, they worried that citizens wouldn't get sufficient information about candidates outside their state and would usually just pick someone from their region. With a direct popular vote, it is more likely that no candidate would receive a majority sufficient to govern a whole country, making challenges more frequent. Even if there was a clear winner, the selection of the president would often be decided by the biggest, most populous state with little attention paid to smaller ones. The Electoral College seemed like a better way to ensure the president had a wide geographic mandate.

THE FAITHLESS ELECTOR

Since there is no federal law that requires electors to vote how they pledged they would, there have been a few instances where electors have not supported their party's candidate or the state's popular vote. In the past, electors have done this to make a statement when the election wasn't close and their vote wouldn't matter. But a faithless elector on Tuesday could wreak havoc around the country if there is a near tie in the Electoral College. Already one of West Virginia's five Republican electors, South Charleston Mayor Richie Robb, said that he might not vote for Bush if the President wins West Virginia (but he said it is unlikely he would support Kerry.)

Several states have responded to faithless electors by passing laws that make electors vote as they pledged. Some states have gone even farther by slapping them with misdemeanors or fines. North Carolina, for example, levies a \$10,000 fine on an elector who forgoes his or her pledge. However, most scholars believe these state-level laws don't hold much water and would not withstand a constitutional challenge.

PROS AND CONS

Opponents of the Electoral College point to Bush as a reason to get rid of the current system — he's president even though he lost the popular vote. Since the distribution of electoral votes tends to over-represent people in rural states, opponents argue that the system fails to accurately reflect the popular will. This over-representation occurs because a state's electors are based upon the number of representatives it has in the House (determined by population) plus the number of representatives it has in the Senate (two, no matter the state's population, giving more weight to small states.) Some argue that the winner-take-all mechanism in 48 states discourages independent or third party candidates from running because it would be difficult for them to get many electoral votes.

Proponents of the Electoral College system like the fact that a president must have a wide geographic distribution of support to win, believing this contributes to the cohesiveness of the country. They think the College helps minority interests because their votes could make a difference in the state, whereas the national popular majority would probably dilute them in a direct election. Some like that the Electoral College encourages a two-party system, because it forces candidates to move to the center of public opinion to get elected. In a direct election dozens of political parties, many with extreme, fringe ideas, would be encouraged to crop up to prevent a candidate from winning a popular majority. One of these parties could win the run-off and we would have more radical changes in policies from one administration to the next.

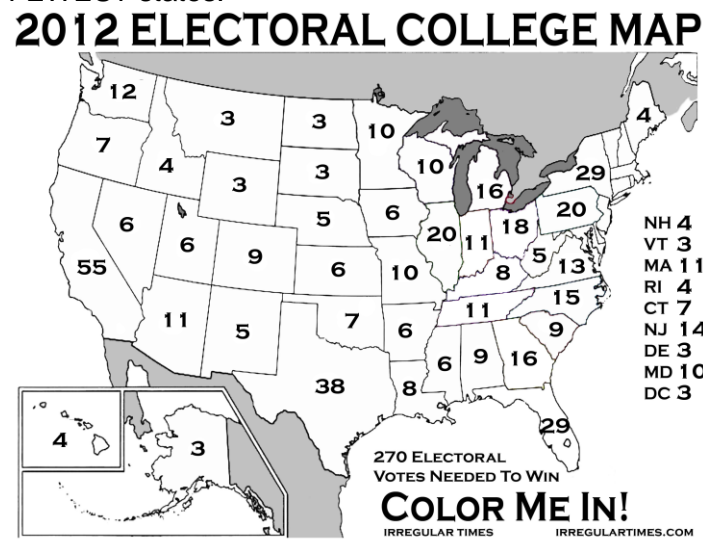
After the 2000 election, there was a lot of talk about doing away with this system, but it's unlikely this will happen anytime soon. To do so, we would need an amendment to the Constitution, which requires a two-thirds vote from Congress and then ratification by three-fourths of the states for it to become law. Small, rural states probably wouldn't support any such amendment because it would give them less of a voice.

In the end, the system works pretty well. For the past two hundred years, the Electoral College has picked a president, most of the time without incident. While not without its faults, the College has withstood the test of time, allowing peaceful elections to continue through tumultuous world wars, the civil rights struggle and economic depressions. It's a testament to the founding fathers' foresight that this ancient system of compromise continues to thrive.

Source: <http://www.time.com/time/election2004/article/0,18471,749496,00.html>

Other resources: <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/pdf/ElectoralCollegeHistory.pdf>
http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/pdf/2012_electoral_map.pdf

Knowing that you must get 270 electoral votes to win the presidential election. Color the states you would campaign in if you were running for president. Try to see if you can get 270 by visiting the FEWEST states.



Explain your “campaign strategy” used to win the 270 electoral votes. Think POLITICALLY!

Interest Group Research

Answer the questions about your assigned interest group below.

1. What is your interest group? _____
2. Where is the interest group based? _____
3. Who is the current President of the group? _____
4. When and where was it founded? _____
5. Who founded it and why? _____

6. What is the purpose (issue) of your interest group? _____

7. How many members does your interest group have? _____
8. What does the interest group do for its members (member services)? _____

9. What issues does it support? How does it justify (defend) that position? _____

10. What issues does it oppose? How does it justify (defend) that position? _____

11. What legislation has it supported and opposed in recent years? _____

12. What presidential candidates has it endorsed, if any? _____
13. What presidential candidates has it donated money to? How much? _____

14. Would you want to be a member of this interest group? Why or why not? _____

15. Draw your group's logo here:

Your Interest Group

1. What is your interest group name? _____

2. Who does your group target? _____

3. What will be the main purpose of your interest group? _____

4. What will be the aligned political party and why? _____

5. What will be your interest group ideology? Give details regarding the major plank involved and which party you want to influence.

6. Name the 3 types of propaganda you used during your presentation and explain how they were used.

Propaganda 1:

Propaganda 2:

Propaganda 3:

Your Commercial

Do your research and choose one of the current presidential hopefuls to promote. Then, use the space below to create your own political ad for your candidate ripe with propaganda! For inspiration, you may turn to LivingRoomCandidate.com. You must use at least 3 forms of propaganda throughout your commercial!

1. Who is your candidate? _____

2. What is their party? _____

3. Who does your ad target? _____

4. What will the audience see?

5. What will your audience hear? Write the ENTIRE script out below!

6. Highlight anywhere you used propaganda in your commercial.

7. Name the types of propaganda you used and explain how they were used.

Propaganda 1:

Propaganda 2:

Propaganda 3:

8. Explain why you think that your commercial will be successful in promoting your candidate.

Voter Apathy, Why It's a Big Problem

By Stefanie Cragun

Voter turnout is on the decline. We hear that a lot, every election the news anchor tells us about the low voter turnout. But so what right? Why does it matter?

Impact of Low Voter Turnout on Policy

Low voter turnout can lead to bad policy. If very few people vote, there is a very low chance that those in office will be voted out of office, regardless of what they do while they are in office.

Bad policy is not the political career ender that it once was. Most eligible voters don't even realize that there is a bad policy. Many of those who realize that the policy is bad, don't go to the polls to hold officials accountable.

Examples of this can be found in the many members of Congress who have been implicated in various scandals and still remain in office. If officials feel that there will be no repercussions from the voters for their bad behavior and bad policy, there is no incentive for them to do better.

Are We Really Getting the Best Candidate for The Job?

With a low voter turnout, it doesn't take many votes to get elected. A very simple example would be if 20 voters turned out to vote, it would take only 11 votes for someone to get elected. If most eligible voters did not actually want this candidate, it would not matter because they did not cast their ballot.

The wrong candidate can do a lot of damage from a position of power. Once he is in there, there is little anyone can do about it. Impeachment is rare, most of the time there is nothing to do but wait for the next election.

If the only people who vote are ones who are friends of the candidates and people who have worked to get the candidates elected, then our elections are really just a measure of who has more friends, not who can do the best job or who has the best ideas. It is a popularity contest.

Non Presidential Years

Voter turnout in the 2004 election was 64% of adults, according to the US Census bureau. In 2002, a non-Presidential election year, only 37% of adults came out to the polls (according to the Office of Election Assistance.) This shows that many people do not vote unless it is a presidential election year.

Who we elect to other positions is just as important as who we send to the White House. So what is the impact of all this? The minority who remain active in politics in non-Presidential election years can place whomever they choose into Congress or other offices without much trouble. This happens under the radar and most people don't even notice it.

We are very likely to end up with people in office who do not represent the interests of everyone, just those who helped get them elected.

Is It Really Democracy?

If only a few are casting ballots, at what point is it no longer a democracy? We are a country where every adult citizen over 18 has the right to vote regardless of religion, race, gender or wealth. If we don't exercise that right, we are leaving the decision of our government to others. Citizens leaving the decision of who governs and what those officials do for other people to make is a risk for our democracy.

In a democracy, citizens have more than a right to vote. In order to protect our democracy, we have a duty to inform ourselves about the issues and the candidates and then vote to voice our preferences. By leaving the decision to others we are condemning ourselves to live by their decisions and their rules.

What Can We Do?

Each person should read the papers, go online, whatever they can to learn about what the issues are and where the candidates stand on those issues. We should look past the personal attacks and character assassinations. (Who of us could withstand that kind of scrutiny and come out clean, we all have things we would rather not have as public knowledge.) We should make an informed decision and then go to the polls and formalize our decision.

If we know someone who does not know how to register to vote or where to vote, we should show them how and encourage them to vote. If someone says to you "Why bother, it doesn't matter anyway." You can try to change their mind or tell them "Do it anyway, just in case it does matter." That way you can encourage them to vote without having to argue with them about whether their vote matters or not.

Reflection: Acrostic Poem

Get creative and write an acrostic poem about the importance of voting in a democracy. Use the article on this page, your notes, and today's discussion to help you.

Possible words for your poem:				
V	D	V	V	R
O	E	O	O	O
T	M	T	T	C
I	O	E	H	K
N	C	T	I	T
G	R	R	L	H
	A	U	L	E
	C	M	A	V
	Y	P	R	O
			Y	T
			E	E



What Super PAC's Want is a Return on their Investment

Sheldon Adelson, the highest-spending super PAC donor, has interests in China, Las Vegas and Israel.

WASHINGTON -- Here their names for they are the country's new power brokers: Sheldon Adelson, David and Charles Koch, Harold Simmons, and Bob Perry, among others. Along with similarly wealthy individuals and groups, they're pouring unprecedented sums into the 2012 election -- tens, perhaps even hundreds, of millions of dollars.

When asked why, they prefer to offer lofty motives. The billionaire Koch brothers speak about libertarianism and the need to save free enterprise. Casino magnate Adelson talks in equally apocalyptic terms about preserving the security and Jewish identity of Israel. Institutions such as the AFL-CIO and the National Education Association tend to stress liberal agenda items such as expanded health care and progressive taxation.

Some super donors say they want to level the playing field in the interest of a fair fight. Jeffrey Katzenberg of DreamWorks, President Barack Obama's most influential ally in Hollywood, has said that his goal is to blunt the efforts of Republican strategist Karl Rove, the Koch brothers and other hard-core conservatives to run away with the election.

But all these super donors have other goals that are less high-minded and more specific. Simply put, they want the federal government to do something or to stop doing something. For their money, they want results that will help their bottom line, their industry or their members.

"When people contribute to political action committees," then-Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said in 1983, "they expect something in return other than good government." And the money back then was trifling, and the rules back then were strict. Now it's anything goes.

So what do the big boys want? What do they really, really want? The Huffington Post looked behind the rhetoric for the potential policy payoffs -- there's truly no other word for it -- sought by 15 individual and institutional super donors in the 2012 campaign.

With the Koch brothers, for example, the motivation has less to do with libertarian ideology than with the fact that many of their industrial and mining companies are environmentally invasive -- to put it mildly. They expect a Republican administration and Congress, if they can buy one, to abolish laws, regulations and regulatory bureaucracies that interfere with their business.

For Adelson, the real close-to-home issue isn't in the Middle East; it's in the Far East -- and in Washington, D.C. Federal investigators are examining whether Adelson's company violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act by offering large payments to officials in Macau, where it has a major casino operation. Adelson would like an administration more likely to see his side of that story.

As for the AFL-CIO and the teachers' union, their goal is to preserve collective bargaining rights and union prerogatives at a time when membership has declined in all but public employee unions. Indeed, the main goal is to preserve public employees' collective bargaining rights and benefits, which are under attack at the state level. For these institutions, the identity of the president who has the power to nominate members of the National Labor Relations Board -- an obscure agency to most Americans -- is paramount.

Huey Long, the famously corrupt governor of Louisiana long ago, said that voters in his state "one of these days are going to get good government -- and they aren't going to like it." Well, that day has yet to come, in Louisiana or the 2012 election.

Check out the slideshow (below) for more details about these and other super donors -- and what they really want for their money.

Alexander Becker and Melissa Bendixen contributed research to this article.

Reflection: Choose ONE option below

- **Analyze the Argument:** write a reflection that explains the authors most effective argument in the article and explain why you think the argument is the most effective. (1-2 paragraphs)
- **Identify the Bias:** Reflect on the authors viewpoint on the issue they are discussing and identify 5 clues in the text that proves they are biased.
- **Developing vocabulary:** choose three words in the article you do not know. For each unknown word find the dictionary definition, find the synonyms, and then create a sentence using the word.
- **Developing viewpoints:** Discuss whether or not you agree or disagree with the author. Justify your position. (1-2 paragraphs)
- **Text-to-text connections:** using the article you just read make a text-to-text connection. This means consider something else you have read and how does it relate to it. (it could be another article in this packet). Identify things they have in common and how do they relate to each other.
- **Text-to-world connections:** How does this issue effect your community? Your community can be the world, country, state, city, family, friends, church, etc. You have a lot of communities. What is the impact of this article on them? (1-2 paragraphs)
- **Create a cartoon:** Draw a cartoon responding to the issue discussed in this article. The cartoon must have 6 boxes AND the characters must talk back and forth to each other 3 times
- **Create a timeline:** Create a timeline mapping out the events discussed in this article. At the end of the timeline, make a prediction of what will happen next in the progression of events. You more or less have to come up with a hypothesis as to what will happen in the future.
- **KWL Chart:** Before reading, consider the topic of the article and make a chart that takes into account what you know (K) about the topic, what you wonder or want to know (W) about the topic, and then after reading what you learned (L) from the reading.
- **Important passages:** Choose three passages in the article that you think are most important. Then explain why you believe they are the most important.
- **Personal Passages:** Identify how this topic and the information learned impacts your life or relates to your life. (1-2)

Unit 5: Politics and Elections

Doodle Review: Using this space, create a colorful Mind Map that includes all of the main ideas (in **BOLD!**) that we studied. You may use drawings, symbols, words, or/and patterns that will help you visualize how these main ideas are connected!
This is to help YOU and you may use it on your test!

