

Vocabulary Activity

Civic Participation

Content Vocabulary

1. **DIRECTIONS:** Use this graphic organizer to explain what political parties are and how they achieve their goals. Then explain the party system in the United States. Use the words **political party**, **two-party system**, and **third party** in your answer.

Political party	Two-party system	Third party

2. **DIRECTIONS:** Use this graphic organizer to describe the differences among the three types of primaries used in the United States. Use the words **direct primary**, **open primary**, and **closed primary** in your answer.

Type of Primary	Description
Direct primary	
Open primary	
Closed primary	

Vocabulary Activity *(continued)*

Civic Participation

3. DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences and explain what the words **plurality** and **majority** mean based on the information in the passage. Use the chart to write your explanations.

Five candidates ran in the primary. Tamika Smith won that election with a **plurality** of 41 percent of the vote. She went on to win the general election with a 52 percent to 48 percent **majority** over her opponent.

Term	Explanation
Plurality	
Majority	

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences. If the statement is true, write *T* in the first blank. If the sentence is false, write *F*, and then explain in the space provided why the statement is false. Include the vocabulary word(s) in parentheses in your explanation.

- _____ 4. A primary election decides which candidate will hold a political office. (**primary election**)
- _____ 5. In its watchdog role, the mass media may reveal government corruption or waste. (**watchdog role**)
- _____ 6. Because the battle for suffrage persists, Congress renewed the Voting Rights Act in 2006. (**suffrage**)
- _____ 7. To vote, people must first fill out a ballot and then register. (**ballot, register**)
- _____ 8. In early voting, many people go to the polling place to cast their votes in person. (**early voting, polling place**)
- _____ 9. Only a few states have a winner-take-all system in which the winner of the popular vote in the state receives all the electoral votes in a presidential election. (**winner-take-all, popular vote**)
- _____ 10. Shield laws protect journalists from censorship by the government. (**shield law**)
- _____ 11. Interest groups hire lobbyists to try to convince members of the public to support their cause. (**interest group**)

Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

Civic Participation

DIRECTIONS: In the space provided before each word in the left column, write the letter of the correct definition.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| _____ 12. caucus | a. a type of ballot that allows voters to cast their votes without going to a polling place |
| _____ 13. prior restraint | b. meeting with voters to seek support for a candidate |
| _____ 14. canvass | c. a procedure by which citizens vote on state or local laws |
| _____ 15. referendum | d. process that lets voters propose new laws or amendments to the state constitution |
| _____ 16. absentee ballot | e. the use of sounds or images that have strong positive or negative appeal |
| _____ 17. mass media | f. the act of stopping information from being known by blocking it from being published |
| _____ 18. initiative | g. methods of communication that reach large numbers of people |
| _____ 19. recall | h. a meeting of political party members to conduct party business |
| _____ 20. symbolism | i. a special election in which citizens can vote to remove an official from office before the term ends |

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences. If the **bold** term is used correctly in the sentence, write C in the first blank. If the term is used incorrectly, write I, and then explain in the space provided why the term is not used correctly. Include the **bold** vocabulary term in your explanation.

- _____ 21. A **grassroots movement** might develop into a third party if it gains the support of enough people.
- _____ 22. The primary purpose of the two-party system is to turn **propaganda** into law.
- _____ 23. The government has its own **political action committee (PAC)** to lobby Congress.
- _____ 24. Each party has a **platform** that states its position on different public issues.
- _____ 25. A party's **national committee** organizes the national convention and works to have the nominees for president and vice president elected.
- _____ 26. The **voter turnout rate** is another term for the citizens who choose the winner in a presidential election.
- _____ 27. **Public opinion** is the attitudes that people have toward government, public officials and candidates, and policy issues.

Vocabulary Activity *(continued)*

Civic Participation

28. DIRECTIONS: Use this graphic organizer to describe how each of the following contributes to policy making. Use the words **public agenda**, **public-interest group**, and **pollster** in your answers.

Policy, Group, or Person	Who or What It Is	How It Contributes to Governing
Public agenda		
Public-interest group		
Pollster		

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences and answer the questions.

29. Explain how the terms **public opinion polls** and **statistical** are related to one another. Give an example of what these polls show.

30. Explain what **nonpartisan** interest groups are and give an example of how they work.

31. Explain which types of radio and television stations need a **license** and which types of stations do not. Then explain how that requirement relates to regulation.

Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

Civic Participation

Academic Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS: From the vocabulary list, choose the best word to answer each question.

accurate, benefit, policy, select, strategy

32. Which word describes an advantage, gift, or gain from something?
33. Which term is another word for *choose*?
34. Which word describes a plan to achieve a goal or aim?
35. Which word refers to a course of action adopted by a person, organization, business, or government?
36. Which word indicates that something is correct in every way?