

## Social Justice 12

### Political Platforms Research

One of our tasks this semester will be to run the Student Vote program for our school. We will be responsible for educating our peers about the federal election issues, and general voting procedures. Before we start on this, we will do some initial research about the parties and their platforms.

#### What is a political party?

- A group of individuals with specific ideas about how the country should be run. Parties generally follow a political **ideology**.

#### What is a political ideology?

- A political ideology is a general philosophy about the role of government in society.

#### What political ideologies are most common in Canada?

- **Socialism**: governments should play a larger role in society, individuals and corporations pay higher taxes so that government can fund social programs, governments should own/control key aspects of the economy, welfare of society as a whole is most important.
- **Liberalism**: the key role of government is to protect individual rights and freedoms, fundamental belief of individual intellectual freedom, believes that governments should have a say in the economy only if it is necessary for the wellbeing of society
- **Conservatism**: the key role of government is to support the individual, believes that government should collect fewer taxes to allow individuals more control over their money, and that individuals and corporations can make better decisions about how to spend money than government, believe in law and order to protect societal traditions

#### What is a political platform?

- A list of key policies and ideas a political party intends to implement if they form government.

#### Canada's 42<sup>nd</sup> General Election

- Canadians will vote on October 19, 2015
- Canadians will elect 338 Members of Parliament

#### The Initial Assignment

- Your initial assignment is to look at the platforms of the four major political parties through a social justice lens (Conservative, Liberal, NDP, Green).
- You can also find out where you stand in relation to the major parties by doing the Vote Compass quiz. To do this, Google CBC Vote Compass.

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**How should I show my learning?**

For each of the four major political parties, you should:

- Find the party's platform.
- Read through the major policies and ideas of the party.
- Note specific planks (a plank is a part of a platform) that would address social justice issues in Canada.
- Note what aspect of social justice that plank would address (using the social justice lens checklist handout).
- If you find platforms that you feel counter social justice principles, you can include those as well.

You can present your information as a:

- Web
- Chart
- Outline list
- PowerPoint
- Prezi
- Diagram
- Whatever works for you and meets the above criteria!!

**Grading Criteria**

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C+</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>C-</u>
<b><u>Using a Social Justice Lens</u></b>	Student has identified planks from all party platforms. Student has identified social justice aspect of each plank. Student shows sophisticated ability to work from a social justice lens.	Student has identified planks from all party platforms. Student has identified social justice aspect of each plank. Student shows proficient ability to work from a social justice lens.	Student has identified planks from all party platforms. Student has identified social justice aspect of most planks. Student shows adequate ability to work from a social justice lens.	Student has identified planks from all party platforms. Student has identified social justice aspect of some planks. Student shows beginning ability to work from a social justice lens.	<b><u>Assignment may be incomplete or meet expectations at a minimal level.</u></b>