**Government**

**Political Issues Activity**

1. What issues are at the center of the political debate?
2. What positions do the parties take on these issues?
3. What do the presidential candidates say about these issues?
4. How much has the political debate changed in modern American history?

These questions will be the focus of this project. We will identify the central political issues of today, explain what the major parties’ position/solution is (or has been). Review how those issues and positions have been used by the current presidential candidates, and compare that to the historical record of American politics. The following organizers will help you collect your research data which will be used to complete your written report.

**Key Issue Conservative Stance Liberal Stance**

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Romney/Obama Debate link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYKKsRxhcro>

Nixon/Kennedy Debate link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbrcRKqLSRw>

**Debate G. O.**

**Key Issue What the Conservative Said: What the Liberal Said:**

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**Reflection Report:**

Use the following prompts along with the data you have collected to write a report that explains the trends, changes, and opinions you have reviewed.

* What is similar about the political issues of today vs the political issues being expressed in the 1960s? How? Why? What is different? How? Why?
* Is there a notable difference between the solutions offered by either party from then vs now on any of the issues? If so, what differences on what issues? How do you explain the change?
* What strategies are being used by today’s candidates to gain popularity that were not used decades ago? What campaign strategies were used then AND now? Discuss.
* In what ways has politics and political issues changed since then to reflect changes in society? What issues are argued today that NEITHER party would have discussed then? Why?