

# Welcome to AP US Government & Politics!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Class Discussion Directions:** *This worksheet is meant to guide you through today's discussion. Use this sheet to jot down thoughts and ideas you may want to share during the discussion that takes place today. Use the rubric/discussion guidelines on the back to make sure you are meeting the requirements for this introductory lesson and getting full credit.*

**Warm Up:** Analyze the political cartoon at your desk. Make a list of the political, social, economic and cultural issues that are most divisive for the American population. (Consider local, state, national, and global problems)

**Then,** circle **ONE** item on your list that you think no one else in the class listed. Write this item on the \_\_\_\_\_ post-it note located at your desk.

**Discussion Question 2:** *After listening and discussing the warm up, which of the issues that the group has discussed do you feel is the most significant and/or impactful to you? Explain why addressing this issue should be a major priority for the American people.*

**Discussion Question 3:** *After listening and discussing question 2, what are some possible solutions to bridging the political divisions in American society? Consider broad/general actions that the American people, the state and federal governments, corporations and other institutions should take to address these problems.*

**Exit Slip:** If you were limited to a one-word solution to as many of the problems/divisive issues we discussed today as possible, what would it be? Write this word on the blank line below **AND** on the \_\_\_\_\_ post-it note located at your desk.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Expectations & Evaluation for Discussion:** Please reference the following to make sure you get full credit for this activity, while also pushing yourself to be a proactive member of this discussion.

**Evaluation Items:** Today's discussion is a way for me to get to know you and your peers better. I'm observing the following items:

- **Leadership & Participation (10 pts)**- Are you willing to share your thoughts with the class? Are you willing to push the conversation forward by offering new questions or points of consideration?
- **Listening & Respect for others (10 pts)**- Do you respect ALL of your peers by listening carefully to their views and using other's perspectives to drive your own? Do you respect perspectives that differ from your own?
- **Collaboration & Team Support (5 pts)**- Are you willing to support your partner by providing them with notes & written insights while you are observing the inner-circle? Are you willing to help a partner or peer who is struggling to participate?
- **Conduct (5 pts)**- Do you remain engaged in the discussion at all times throughout the activity without being distracted or being a distraction?

**Expectations for Discussion:**

1. Be respectful of everyone in the classroom.
2. Only one person can be speaking at a time during the debate.
3. Raise your hand to be recognized by the moderator.
4. Be an active listener. You must acknowledge the previous point made in the discussion before you can contribute an argument of your own.
5. If you are unsure how to present a controversial point, try to pose the idea in the form of a question for others to consider. If you know it will not be received well, save the thought for later and check in about it with Mr. Fox.
6. Everyone must participate with *high quality* responses at least 3 times!