**Day 4 – Similarities and Differences**

**Similarities** of Political Parties

- Republicans & Democrats

1. Organize to *win* elections

2. They influence **public policy** (laws)

3. Both show liberal and conservative views

- Liberal = equality & freedom

- Conservative = traditional

4. Define the party to win votes from the political “center”

**Example of Political Center**: Campaigning for Student Council

**Losing Plan:** “Athletes are cool, and I hate everyone else”

**Winning Plan:** “Athletes, the band, choir, & famers are ok”

**Differences**

- Platform = ideology

- The beliefs of the party

Ex. Dems – Social Programs (Medicare, Unemployment)

Ex. Repubs – Lower Taxes, Less Social Programs

**Day 4 Notes – “Third Parties”**

* U.S. Political System = Two Party System
  + Democrats & Republicans
* **Third Party**
  + Main Job:
    - Not trying to win
    - Introduce new ideas
      * Green Party
        + Environmental ideas
      * Libertarian Party
        + More freedom from the gov’t
      * The Rent Is Too Darn High Party
        + Rent in NYC costs too much
* Sometimes, 3rd Parties *change the outcome* of an election
  + 2000: Bush (rep) v. Gore (dem)
    - Florida
      * Bush: 2,912,790
      * Gore: 2,912,253
        + Differences: 537 votes
      * Nader: 97,488
        + These votes probably would have gone to Gore