

The Election of 1800 Campaign Posters

Campaigns throughout history have relied on publicity in order to help voters understand candidates' political views. You will study the major issues from the Election of 1800. Two main candidates in this election were John Adams of the Federalist Party and Thomas Jefferson of the Republican Party. You will be assigned one of the main issues from the campaign and will be assigned to support one of the political parties. You will create a campaign poster that will explain to the voting public your party's position on the issue you are given. Have fun!

The Issues

The issues that we will work with are ones that Federalists and Republicans split over during the early years of the United States. These issues are as follows:

1. Should the central government be strong or limited? Why? (The American Journey, p. 209-210)
2. Should there be a Bank of the United States? Why or why not? (The American Journey, p. 260-261, 268, Creating America, p.296-297)
3. What type of people should run the government, the elite (upper class) or the common people? Why? (The American Journey, p. 268)
4. Should the Constitution be interpreted strictly or loosely? Why? (The American Journey, p. 268, Creating America, p.297)
5. Should the United States support the French Revolution? Why or why not? (The American Journey, p. 264, Creating America, p.301-302)
6. What should America do about the XYZ Affair? (The American Journey, p.270, Creating America, p.305-306 and the internet)
7. Defend or oppose the Naturalization, Alien, and Sedition Acts and give reasons to support your position. (The American Journey, p. 271-272, Creating America, p.306-307)
8. Should the United States Senate ratify Jay's Treaty? (The American Journey, p.264-265, Creating America, p.302, and the internet)
9. What economic policies would be best for the nation? (Note: read about Alexander Hamilton's economic plans during Washington's administration, specifically paying off Revolutionary War bonds, issuing protective tariffs, and issuing excise taxes, like the one on whiskey: The American Journey, p.259-261, Creating America, p.295-297)
10. Should the United States have a permanent standing army? (do internet research at sites such as <http://www.commondreams.org/views04/0505-08.htm>)

The Assignments

Each group will be given one of the above issues and be assigned to be either Federalists or Republicans. Each person in the group will choose one of the following roles. Follow the directions to complete your job.

Newspaper Editors

You will write an editorial (ask your teacher if you need help remembering what an editorial looks like) in support of your position on the issue you've been given. You will work with your teammates to understand what your position is and to create a poster in which to publish your editorial. Newspaper editors of the time used insults in their articles and you may use them in yours (but keep your language within acceptable limits. Check with your teacher if you're unsure about something.)

Political Cartoonists

You must create a political cartoon in support of your position on the issue you've been given. You will work with your teammates to understand what your position is and to create a poster in which to publish your political cartoon. It must be clear from looking at your cartoon that you understand how members of your political party would have felt about the issue you were assigned.

Advertising Campaign Manager

You must create an advertisement in support of your position on the issue you've been given. You will work with your teammates to understand what your position is and to create a poster in which to publish your political cartoon. You must use a creative slogan in your advertisement that would make voters interested in supporting your candidate. You will also be responsible for presenting your group's poster to the class. You will need to read the editorial to the class and make sure they understand your candidate's position on the issue you were given.

This assignment is due on Thursday, November 21, 2013. The posters will be presented on Friday, November 22.