**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