

## 5.1 Parties and What They Do

How is a **political party** defined in your text?

Who are the two major political parties in the US?

What does your book mean when it says that the Democratic and Republican parties are “election oriented?”

Why does your text say that political parties are a “vital link” between the people and their government?

How do political parties “blunt conflict?”

**Take notes on each of the main roles of political parties:**

Nominating Candidates

Informing and Activating Voters

Bonding Agent

Governing

Acting as a Watchdog

Where do you fit in?

## Political Party Quiz from the PEW Research Center

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/spc/vote2012/quiz/>

Answer the 12 on-line questions. Where did you fit into the political spectrum according to the survey.?

Now go back and look at the 12 questions. See if you can generalize about what Democrats and Republican Parties believe in.

Use the chart below to write in the key ideas of each party. Follow my example.

Key Democratic Ideas	Key Republican Ideas
Favor laws which regulate businesses to protect the environment	Oppose too much regulation by government

