

Overview:

Students will read and analyze party platforms, looking for evidence of various approaches to foreign policy.

Length

One class.

Materials:

- Isolationism Versus Engagement (World101)
- Unilateralism Versus Multilateralism (World101)
- Idealism Versus Realism (World101)
- The text of one or more political party platforms ([find U.S. party platforms going back to 1840 here](#))
- A tool allowing a group to annotate and comment, such as [hypothes.is](#), Google Docs, or a printed version of the platform(s) used, along with highlighters and sticky notes

Instructional Plan:

1. Have students read about approaches to foreign policy.
2. Select one or more party platforms to use and prepare it in the tool of your choice.
 - Open the platform in hypothes.is and share with students.
 - Paste the platform into a Google Doc and share with students.
 - Print the platform and, if possible, pin it to the wall or tape it to a table so that students can spread out and work on different pages simultaneously.
3. Have each student start in a different part of the document. When they have finished with their part, they should move on to other parts, reviewing and interacting with their classmates' work. Here are some possibilities for marking up the text:
 - Choose a different color for isolation, engagement, unilateralism, multilateralism, idealism, and realism. Ask

Approaches to Foreign Policy: Identifying Approaches to Foreign Policy in Party Platforms

- students to highlight instances of each approach in the appropriate color.
- Annotate examples of each approach, identifying the approach expressed.
 - Justify in an annotation why the passage is an example of a specific approach.
4. After students have finished marking up the document, discuss what patterns they notice. Do some approaches dominate? Are there places where the platform steers a middle path?