

# DAY 2: Five Days of Freebies

Dear Parents,

'Tis the season of giving, so we wanted to share some stories and articles with you from our *Tuttle Times* magazine along with a couple activities and parent articles from our magazine's Plus Pack.

This year, we talked about compromise, political parties, competition, being a changemaker, boredom, collectivism, happiness, strong communities, and more!

Today's freebie is a story about political parties. Yes, the election is over, but they will continue to drive unproductive conversations, and it's important for everyone to see it!

We hope you enjoy today's content, and you can find yesterday's content on [our blog](#). There are three more days of freebies! Check our social media or blog to find them each day.

Strong families are what will change the world. We hope that the dinner table conversation starters empower you and expand your children's knowledge and understanding of how the world works.

—The Tuttle Twins team



If you want your child to enjoy the *Tuttle Times* magazine every single month, be sure to sign up before December 20, so you receive our January issue—all about tariffs.

We have big plans in 2025 for our magazine, so [subscribe today!](#)

# Story Overview + Dinner Table Conversation Starters

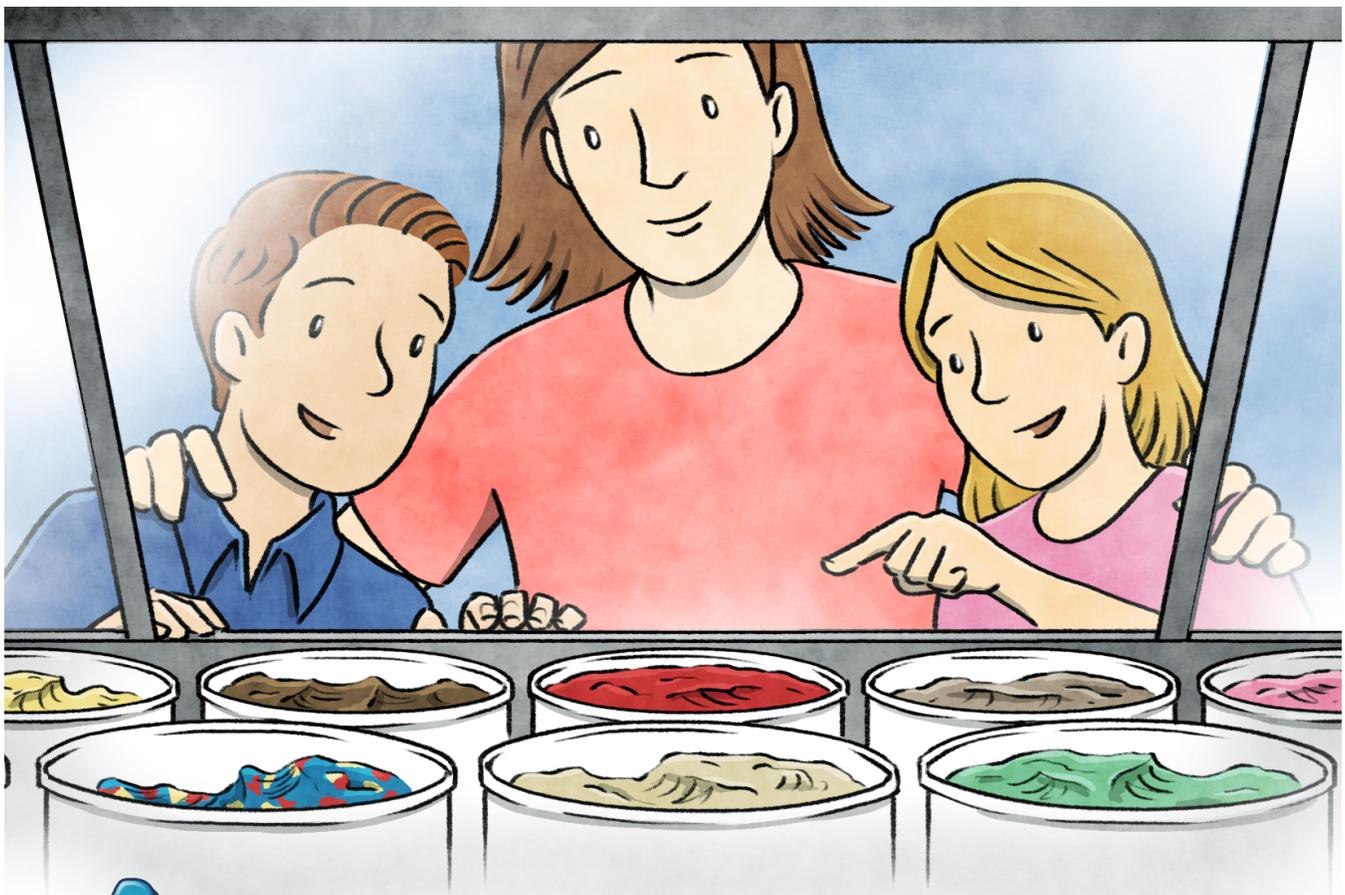
## Story Overview

As the Tuttles enjoy their ice cream, their parents use the family's ice cream choices as a metaphor to explain the pros and cons of political parties. The twins discover that limiting themselves to only two choices—much like a two-party political system—restricts their ability to explore a variety of options.

The family reflects on the benefits of thinking beyond political parties—and government politics altogether. The best solutions to our country's problems don't come from political parties—or government at all! They come from thinkers, inventors, and entrepreneurs.

## Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- What political party (if any) do you as a parent typically vote for? Explain specifically the benefits of those decisions, and also identify some consequences (if any) you have to accept with the decision.
- What are some choices people make that seem to have two choices, but if you think about it, there are actually more choices?



# ice cream party

“What flavor of ice cream do you want?” Mrs. Tuttle asked her children.

“Cherry, please,” Emily said.

“Superman, please,” Ethan said.

“So, the same as the last dozen times we’ve been here?” Mrs. Tuttle said, grinning.

While Mrs. Tuttle ordered, the twins found a table with their dad, Mr. Tuttle. “Both of you have been getting the same flavor for a long time! Aren’t you a little curious about the other flavors?”

“I don’t know. Maybe a little,” Emily said. “My baseball team came here after a game against the Bees. The Bees all got lemon ice cream for their team color, so we all got cherry for ours. I guess it just stuck.”

“Well, that’s *interesting*,” Mr. Tuttle said. “So you decided to keep getting that same flavor ever since... because of your red baseball uniform on that one day?”

“Well, yes, but when you put it *that* way, it does sound a little silly,” Emily said.

“Not as silly as the reason I always choose Superman ice cream,” Ethan said, smiling sheepishly.

“Oh, we *all* have to hear this,” Mr. Tuttle said. “I’ll help your mom carry the ice cream, so we can enjoy your story and our sweet treats together.”

Soon the family was sitting around the table, each with their favorite flavor of ice cream, anticipating Ethan’s explanation.

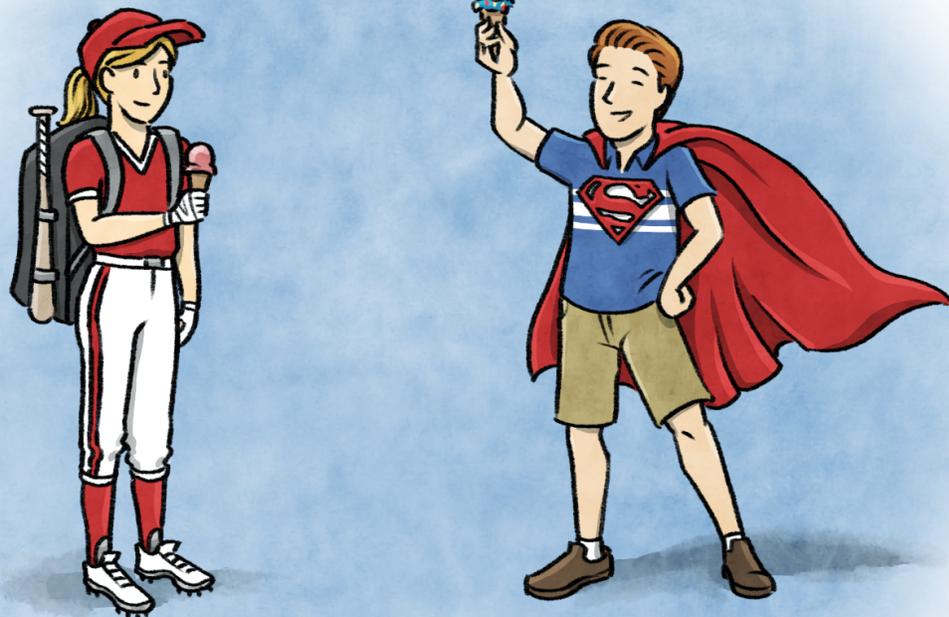
“Okay, this is embarrassing, but when I was little, I thought eating enough Superman ice cream would give me superpowers,” Ethan said, slurping up a mouthful of blue ice cream.

“But you’re still eating it?” Mr. Tuttle asked, chuckling. “What flavor is it anyway?”

“I don’t even know... Blue?” Ethan said, now laughing at himself. “I just order it to remind myself that when something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.”

“Couldn’t you just remind yourself by *looking* at it behind the glass?” Mrs. Tuttle asked. “Then you could try the absolute best ice cream flavor—pralines ‘n cream.”

“You always try to get us to try pralines ‘n cream, Mom. I don’t think that’s ever going to happen. It just sounds a little... boring,” Emily said.



“Boring? Well, what if you had only two choices?” Mrs. Tuttle asked. “My pralines ‘n cream or Dad’s pistachio?”

Emily paused to think, “I don’t know. I never considered either.”

“Well, Emily,” Mr. Tuttle said, “I think you’re right about pralines ‘n cream sounding boring.”

“What?” Mrs. Tuttle said. “How are pralines more boring than pistachios? Who wants green ice cream that doesn’t taste like lime. It’s just weird.”

“I’m not even sure what a praline is,” Mr. Tuttle said. “And most people probably don’t.”

“Well, people might know what pistachios are, but people also know they aren’t meant to be in ice cream,” Mrs. Tuttle said.

“I’ll never convince your mom that pistachio is the best. So, which one would you choose?” Mr. Tuttle asked the twins.

“Um, that debate wasn’t helpful at all,” Emily said. “You didn’t tell us why we should try your ice cream. You just insulted the other person’s choice.”

“You two sound like the politicians on the news,” Ethan added. “They just insult each other’s ideas but don’t really explain their own.”



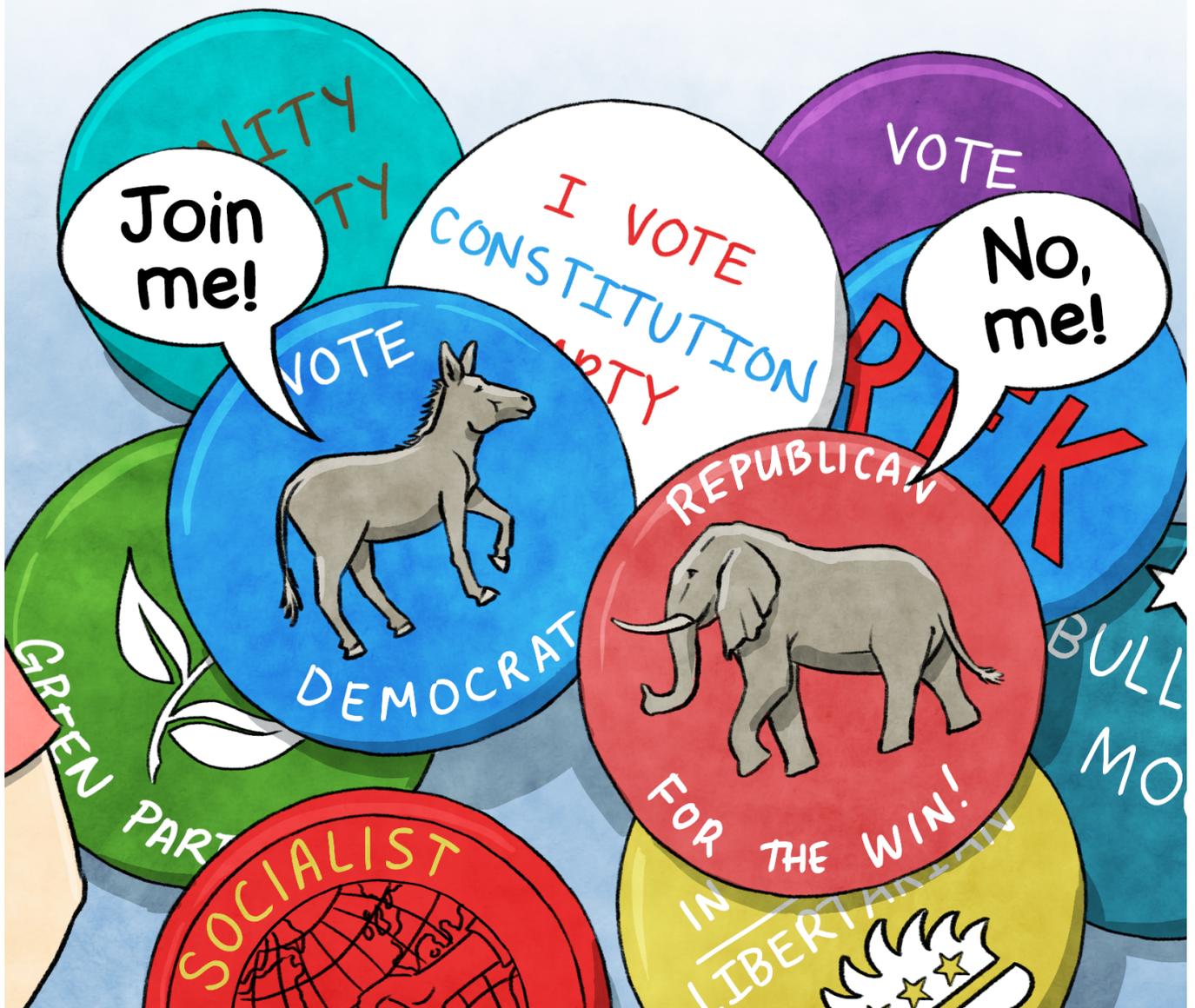
"You're right," Mrs. Tuttle said. "Let's try this again. I like pralines 'n cream because the pralines are little surprises—caramel-coated-pecans—in creamy vanilla ice cream with caramel swirls."

"I don't love oversweet flavors," Mr. Tuttle said. "Pistachios have a subtle nutty flavor, which balances the sweetness."

"Yum! Mom's pralines 'n cream sounds delicious when she describes it that way," Emily said. "I'd choose that one."

"Dad's pistachio sounds like an interesting change after years of Superman's super sweetness," Ethan said. "I would vote for pistachio."

"This ice cream debate really *is* like politics," Mr. Tuttle said. "When it comes to elections, there can only be one winner, so people join teams and vote the same way. That way they have a better chance at winning. Then those teams join with other teams to become even more powerful. These teams are called parties... even though they're not very fun."



“In the United States there are many parties, but two have grown so large and powerful that they’ve made laws to give themselves legal privileges—and most of the media attention,” Mrs. Tuttle added.

“That doesn’t sound very fair,” Ethan said.

“The biggest problem when a political contest is reduced to two options is that the ideas that brought those teams together become less important. All that matters is winning,” Mr. Tuttle said. “They spend more time trying to convince voters that the other team is worse than them—good guys vs. bad guys. And when that happens, there is no need to discuss reasonable solutions to our country’s biggest problems.”

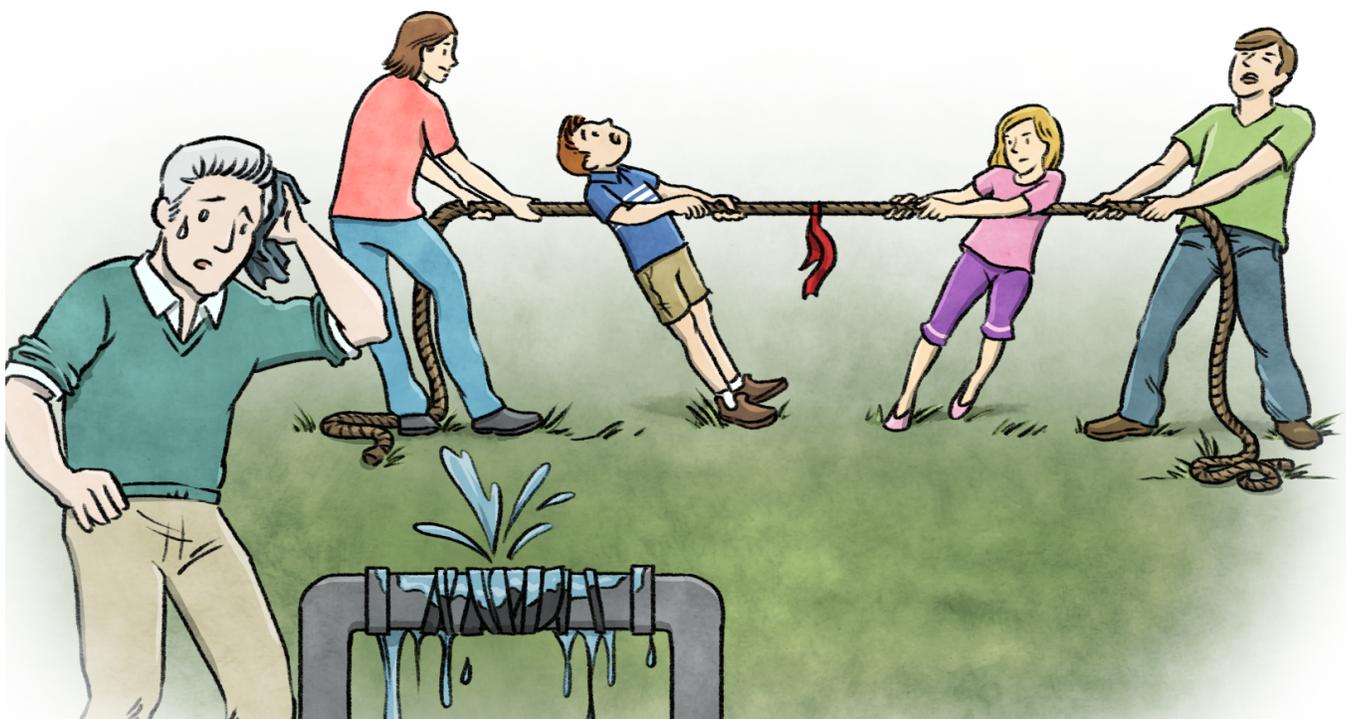
“Well, then how do we know who to choose?” Emily asked.

“It’s very difficult. People feel stuck voting for the same political party for every election, even though the elected politicians rarely accomplish anything they, and their party, promised,” Mrs. Tuttle said.

“So it’s a little bit like me just choosing the same flavor as my teammates and then never really putting much thought into it again,” Emily said.

“Or me choosing Superman to get superpowers and not changing even when I knew that wasn’t going to come true,” Ethan said.

“Yes, that’s pretty accurate,” Mr. Tuttle said, laughing.



Ethan sat up, realizing something. “The ice cream fighting started when Mom gave us only two choices, but there are actually over thirty to choose from.”

“Bingo,” Mrs. Tuttle said. “There are so many ideas on how to solve problems. Voices from the smaller political parties can bring real ideas back to the discussion, but the best solutions to our country’s problems don’t come from political parties—or government at all! They come from thinkers, inventors, and entrepreneurs who want to serve others in business.”

“In business, everyone is free to make choices for their own lives—using their own money. Government is the opposite.

it is coercive, which is why people fight about it,” Mr. Tuttle said.

“Like you and Mom insulting each other’s choices,” Emily said, “even though both are nutty flavors?”

“Wow! I didn’t even realize that until now,” Mr. Tuttle said.

“Looks like we should have teamed up to make a nut-flavored ice cream party,” Mrs. Tuttle said, smiling at Mr. Tuttle.

“Maybe you two should try butter pecan and rocky road next time,” Mr. Tuttle said to the twins. “Then we can all be nutty together.”

Everyone groaned, except Mr. Tuttle. He laughed at his joke!



# Word Search

Find and circle the words about compromise listed below—across, down, and diagonal. Have fun!

H W M G H V O X J O R F P F T W K O F Z  
V F D L F P T Y F E U L H E L T F R P J  
J Q D F A E B O A N Z A A F F R I R Y D  
Y A V N I N D E P E N D E N T V V I E E  
H N C E T P O W E T K G I K G O B T U M  
R L R O S K Q X T Y Z K I N F T K U S O  
E L D W N O O I I H V L X O S E F X A C  
P W F N J V N H A J R Z W M C R I U F R  
U A P D E L E G A T E S F Z L A G Z H A  
B I V V X N E N Y Q X L F C B B U V N T  
L M Q Z L W J I T U N Q E M P J B C X I  
I L I B E R T A R I A N A C A Z Q Y U C  
C A N D I D A T E D O K S M T N R O K S  
A Z N J X G P U Z F X N F P R I M A R Y  
N Q W T A B W Z C D J W A R T B O E C M  
I K U H D E J S K Y H G P A R T Y N D X

## WORD BANK

candidate

delegates

independent

primary

caucus

democratic

libertarian

republican

convention

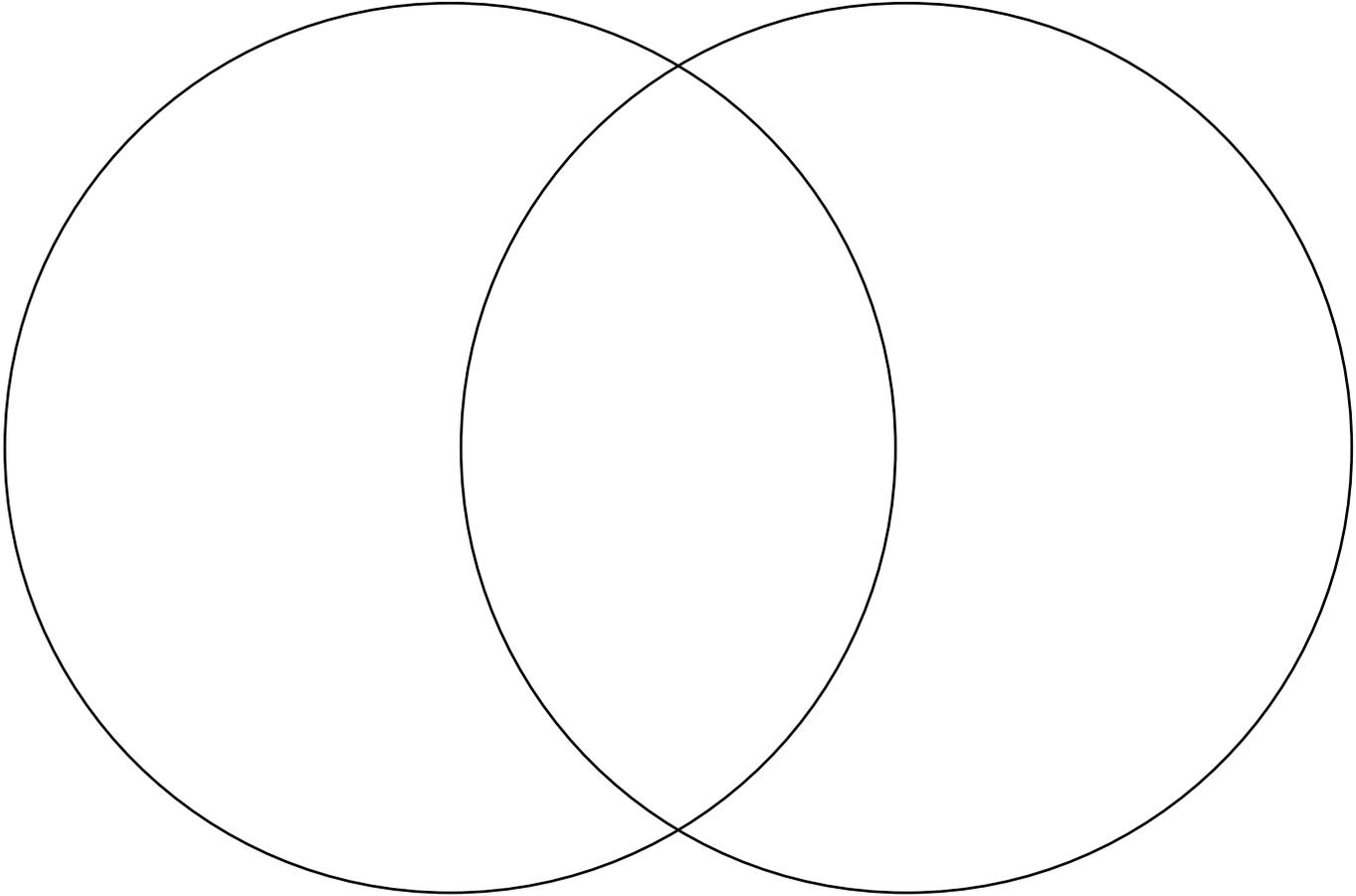
election

party

voter

# Venn Diagram: Compare 2 Political Parties

Compare and contrast two political parties.

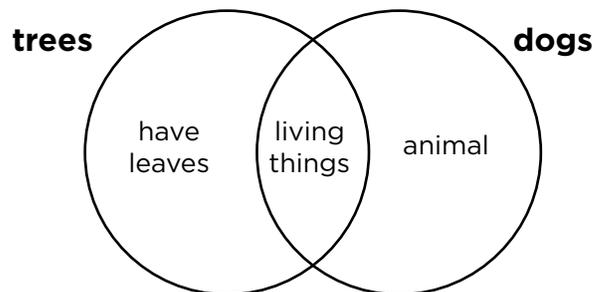


Venn diagrams help compare and contrast things.

Each "thing" has its own circle, and the circles overlap.

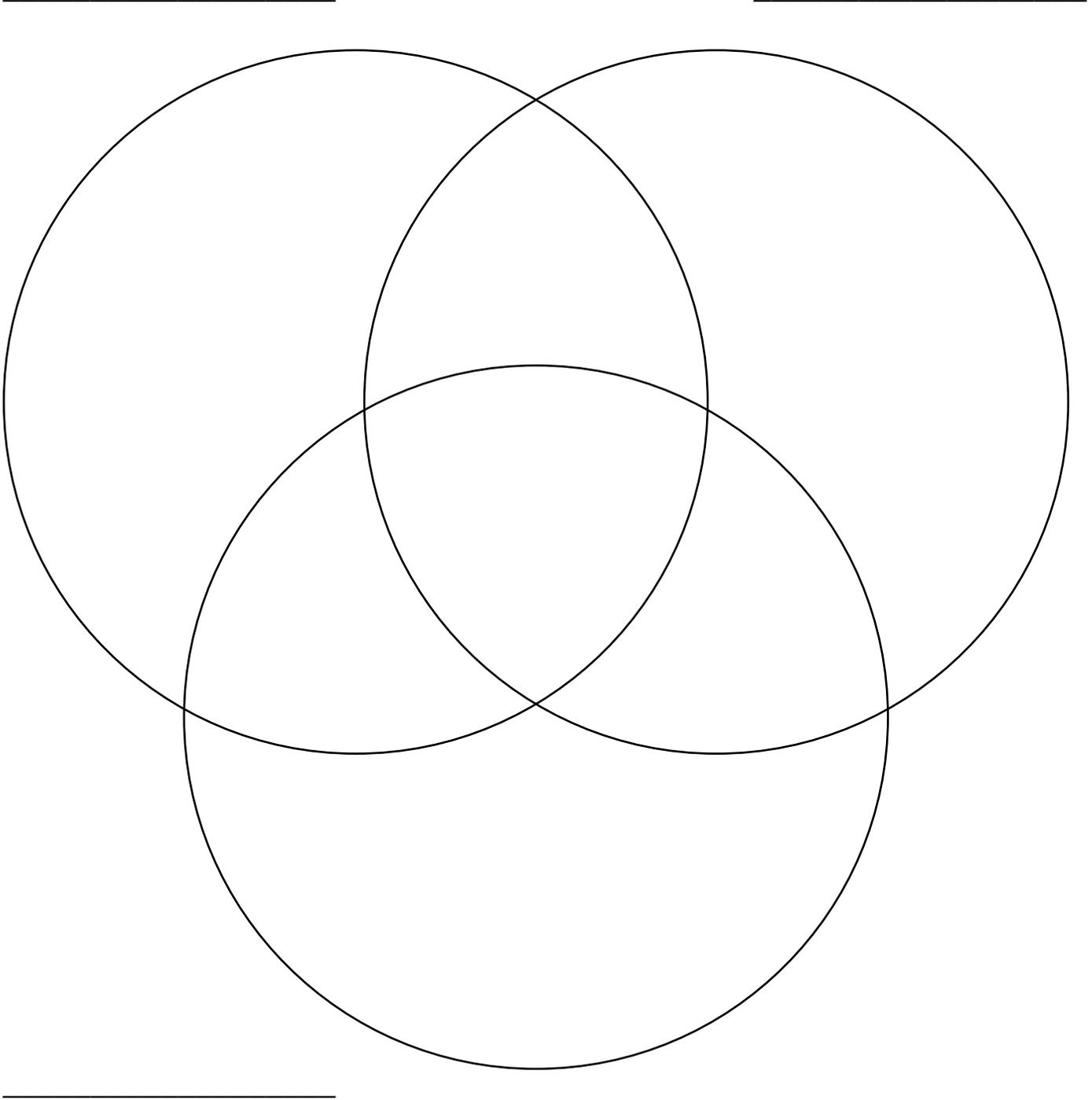
Everything that is true for both things you're comparing should be written where the circles overlap. Example: living things

Everything that just applies to one of the things should be written in the part of the circle that does not overlap. Example.: have leaves



# Venn Diagram: Compare 3 Political Parties

Compare and contrast three political parties.







# For Parents: Unpacking Political Parties

The incessant media coverage and social media arguing during the election has overstayed its welcome—when will it end? What can be done? Avoiding the media and bickering might help our mental health, but it doesn't really solve the problem of the government growing its power every day.

It's not easy, and it certainly isn't going to solve all our problems, but we need to help people, including our children, understand that political parties and elections are not a long-term solution. They are a result of desperation and fear of being ruled over by others, which creates a system of division amongst people, who would, in most circumstances, be friendly. The long-term solution is to cultivate a culture of freedom and a love of liberty.

There is infighting with sound bites all over the media calling out people for not being a "real" member of the party because they have a different view on an issue. Couldn't that be said about practically anyone? Does anyone align with absolutely all the positions and goals of a political party? We're all individuals with a unique set of beliefs—to expect everyone to align 100% with one of the two major parties on so many issues is pretty silly, but very effective... at distracting us. The arguing prevents people from paying attention as the government continually increases its power—way beyond its constitutional role.

Political parties, by their very nature, tend to create an "us vs. them" mentality, perpetuating the notion that there are only two sides to every issue. This binary thinking limits many people's willingness to explore innovative solutions that may fall outside the predefined party lines—and outside the realm of government completely.

We recognize the detrimental impact of this divisive mindset on our nation's future, which is why we usually focus on liberty, free markets, and entrepreneurship—not politics. It is essential for us, as parents and concerned citizens, to rise above the divisive rhetoric and encourage a more nuanced and open-minded approach to problem-solving.

The constant battle between political parties consumes an exorbitant amount of time and energy that could otherwise be dedicated to implementing positive change. It's easy to get caught up in election bickering—especially on social media. But do you really think you're going to change someone's mind? What could we accomplish if we redirected our efforts toward creating thoughtful discourse and cooperative problem-solving?

That's why we focus so much on encouraging entrepreneurship. When entrepreneurs solve problems, the government has less ability to convince people that the government is needed for every issue. We focus on liberty and personal responsibility because those who are self-sufficient don't ask the government to help solve problems. They help those who need help.

Non-governmental solutions, driven by community engagement, voluntary associations, and private initiatives, are often more efficient and effective. Instead of aligning ourselves solely with one party or another, let's focus on the common ground we share with fellow citizens. By setting aside ideological differences and working collaboratively, we can improve our world, with the well-being of our families and communities taking precedence over political allegiance.