

One Big Party?

Name: _____

Going to Extremes. One of the easiest ways to see the difference between the right and the left is to look at extreme viewpoints. Read each statement and decide whether it expresses a belief on the *right* or the *left*. Remember: These beliefs are not held by everyone who identifies as a liberal or a conservative, a Democrat or a Republican.

1. The government should not pay for any schools. All schools should be private.



- Extreme Right
 Extreme Left

4. The government should not provide services that a person or business could provide.



- Extreme Right
 Extreme Left

2. The government should guarantee that everyone will have a job and receive an annual income.



- Extreme Right
 Extreme Left

5. The government should own all of the forests to make sure timber is managed properly.



- Extreme Right
 Extreme Left

3. People should pay for their own retirement. Social Security should be abolished.



- Extreme Right
 Extreme Left

6. The government should ban the use of pesticides on food crops.



- Extreme Right
 Extreme Left

Left or Right? Read each proposed government action. Would it be supported by people on the left or the right? How *far* to the left or the right? Or is it a moderate plan? Place an **X** where you think the proposed government action lies on the political spectrum.

If the government decided to...	Where is that on the political spectrum?
Support community programs that encourage parents to get involved in lowering the high school dropout rate.	
Pass a law raising the minimum wage, helping workers earn more by making businesses pay more.	
Repeal a law requiring businesses to install pollution filters in factory smokestacks.	
Start a government program that lets kids eat dinner free every night at school if their parents won't be home.	
Create public charter schools that students can choose to attend instead of their regular public school.	
Encourage everyone to get health insurance by letting people deduct the cost of health insurance from their taxes.	