

Activity 1

Who Said It?

Instructions: The following quotes are from the Republican and Democratic National Party Platforms in 2012. In the **Prediction** column, place an **R** for Republican or a **D** for Democrat based on your understanding of each party's philosophy. Use the 2012 Republican Party Platform Excerpts, Activity 2, and the 2012 Democratic Party Platform Excerpts, Activity 3, to help determine which party said each quote below if you are unable to make a good prediction.

Prediction

2012 Party Platform Quotes

	1. [We] oppose efforts to give additional tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans at the expense of the middle class and investments in our future.
	2. We oppose tax policies that divide Americans or promote class warfare.
	3. We can preempt the debt explosion...propose immediate reductions in federal spending, as a down payment on the much larger task of long-range fiscal control.
	4. [The] Recovery Act represented the largest education investment since President Johnson, the largest infrastructure investment since President Eisenhower, the single largest clean energy investment ever, and the broadest tax cut in American history. It helped keep teachers, police officers, nurses, and firefighters on the job.
	5. Lowering taxes promotes substantial economic growth and reducing regulation encourages business formation and job creation.
	6. ...a renewed federal-State partnership and new public-private partnerships are urgently needed to maintain and modernize our country's travel lifelines to facilitate economic growth and job creation.
	7. A comprehensive housing policy should address the demand for apartments and multi-family housing. Any assistance should be subject to stringent oversight to ensure that funds are spent wisely.
	8. ...an economy that's built not from the top down, but from a growing middle class, and that provides ladders of opportunity for those working hard to join the middle class.
	9. We believe accessible, high quality health care is part of the American promise, that Americans should have the security that comes with good health care, and that no one should go broke because they get sick.
	10. The tax system must be simplified. Government spending and regulation must be reined in.
	11. ...extend key tax relief for working families and those paying for college, while asking the wealthiest and corporations to pay their fair share.
	12. ...complete negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership to open rapidly developing Asian markets to U.S. products.
	13. ...committed to working with states and communities so they have the flexibility and resources they need to improve elementary and secondary education in a way that works best for students.
	14. To safeguard the free choice of public employees, no government at any level should act as the dues collector for unions.
	15. We will block efforts to subject Americans' guaranteed retirement income to the whims of the stock market through privatization.
	16. [The proper role of taxes] in a free society should be to fund services that are essential and authorized by the Constitution, such as national security, and the care of those who cannot care for themselves. We reject the use of taxation to redistribute income, fund unnecessary or ineffective programs, or foster the crony capitalism that corrupts both politicians and corporations.

	17. ...we continue to fight for relief for the long-term unemployed, including a ban on hiring discrimination against the unemployed and a reformed and expanded universal worker training proposal to provide more training and job search assistance to all displaced workers regardless of how they lost their job.
	18. [We] adamantly oppose any efforts to privatize or voucherize Medicare; unlike our opponents we will not ask seniors to pay thousands of dollars more every year while they watch the value of their Medicare benefits evaporate.
	19. ...individuals and families can maintain their independence from government, raise their children by their own values, practice their faith, and build communities of self-reliant neighbors.
	20. ...reform the tax code to allow businesses to generate enough capital to grow and create jobs for our families, friends and neighbors all across America.
	21. To make college affordable for students of all backgrounds and confront the loan burden our students shoulder, we doubled our investment in Pell Grant scholarships and created the American Opportunity Tax Credit worth up to \$10,000 over four years of college.
	22. [We are] committed to continue cutting red tape for small businesses, helping them sell their goods around the world and access the capital they need to grow.
	23. We oppose any funding mechanism that would involve governmental monitoring of every car and truck in the nation
	24. International trade is crucial for our economy. It means more American jobs, higher wages, and a better standard of living.
	25. If the playing field is level, Americans will be able to compete against every other country on Earth.
	26. ...the right to organize and collectively bargain is a fundamental value; every American should have a voice on the job and a chance to negotiate for a fair day's pay after a hard day's work.
	27. Small businesses create the vast majority of jobs, patents, and U.S. exporters.
	28. Unless we take dramatic action now, young Americans and their children will inherit an unprecedented legacy of enormous and unsustainable debt, with the interest alone consuming an ever-increasing portion of the country's wealth.
	29. We remain committed to finding more markets for American-made goods – including using the Trans-Pacific Partnership...while ensuring that workers' rights and environmental standards are upheld, and fighting against unfair trade practices.
	30. ...we believe we must take immediate action to curb the influence of lobbyists and special interests on our political institutions.
	31. ...we call for a reduction of the corporate [tax] rate to keep U.S. corporations competitive internationally.
	32. ...a simpler, smarter, and more cost-effective approach to regulation, rather than one riddled with special rules written by lobbyists. Efficient and effective regulations enforce common sense safeguards to protect American people.
	33. We must restructure the twentieth century entitlement state so the missions of important programs can succeed in the twenty-first century.
	34. ...work to advance substantive legislation that brings transparency and accountability to the Federal Reserve, the Federal Open Market Committee, and the Fed's dealings with foreign central banks.
	35. We must establish a mortgage finance system based on competition and free enterprise that is transparent, encourages the private sector to return to housing, and promotes personal responsibility on the part of borrowers.
	36. ...establish unprecedented ethics rules so that those who leave the executive branch may not lobby [the] administration and officials may not accept gifts from lobbyists.
	37. ...reforms like work-sharing, a "Bridge to Work" to help the long-term unemployed reconnect with the labor force, and support for unemployed workers looking to become entrepreneurs.

	38. Taxpayer dollars should not be used to bail out borrowers and lenders by funding principal write-downs.
	39. It is long past time for the federal government to get out of the way and allow private ventures to provide [railroad] passenger service to the northeast corridor.
	40. We will strengthen Medicaid and oppose efforts to block grant the program, slash its funding, and leave millions more without health insurance.
	41. The chief cause of high rates of unemployment has been an unprecedented uncertainty in the American free enterprise system due to the overreaching policies of the [government].
	42. ...pledged to encourage colleges to keep their costs down by reducing federal aid for those that do not, investing in colleges that keep tuition affordable and provide good value, doubling the number of work-study jobs available to students, and continuing to ensure that students have access to federal loans with reasonable interest rates.
	43. We can accelerate the process of restoring our domestic economy – and reclaiming this country’s traditional position of dominance in international trade – by a policy of strategic immigration, granting more work visas to holders of advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math from other nations.
	44. In order to reduce the deficit while still making the investments we need in education, research, infrastructure, and clean energy, [we ask] for the wealthiest taxpayers to pay their fair share.
	45. We support the right of States to enact Right-to-Work laws and encourage them to do so to promote greater economic liberty.
	46. We reinstated the tough pay-as-you-go budget rules of the 1990s so that all permanent new spending and tax cuts must now be offset by savings or revenue increases.
	47. ...rescued America’s auto industry, saving more than one million jobs, preventing the collapse of the industry’s supply chain, and shoring up countless communities, while revitalizing the backbone of America’s manufacturing sector.
	48. We want to cut tax breaks for companies that are shipping jobs overseas and for special interests, and instead offer tax breaks to companies that are investing right here in the United States of America.
	49. ...[we] believe in the right to organize and in supporting America’s workers with strong labor laws [and we support] rolled back harmful labor policies designed to undermine collective bargaining rights.
	50. Three programs – Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security – account for over 40 percent of total spending. While these levels of spending and debt are already harming job creation and growth, projections of future spending growth are nothing short of catastrophic, both economically and socially.