

“Get the Party Started”



by
Fran O'Malley
Democracy Project
Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware



Get the Party Started

by
Fran O'Malley
Democracy Project
Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware

Lesson Description: In this lesson, students will lobby individually for the adoption of different edibles as the “State snack.” In phase 1, students experience the challenges of advancing interests while acting alone. In phase 2, students organize collectively (“Get the Party Started”) in support of one, mutually agreeable edible as the State’s snack.

Time Required: 1 class period.

Benchmark Addressed: Civics 2a [Politics], Grades 9-12.

Students will examine and analyze the extra-Constitutional role that political parties play in American politics.

Essential Questions Addressed: [write these on the board prior to beginning the lesson]

1. Why might political parties be necessary in a democracy?
2. Under what conditions might political parties evolve?

Enduring Understanding [from Delaware Civics Clarification Document]: “The competition for power in a democracy needs to be organized or it would be utterly chaotic and unworkable. Constantly emerging and evolving conflicts between infinite numbers of competing interests might atomize or splinter society without the unifying functions that political parties provide by encouraging compromise, blunting tensions, and marginalizing extremism. This helps to explain why political parties developed in every democracy, despite a lack of a constitutional basis for their involvement and an often-active distrust of their inherent partisanship.”

Materials/Preparation:

- **Handout 1 – Role Cards:** prior to implementing the lesson, cut role cards into individual cards for random distribution. You should have one for each student in the class.
- **Music (optional):** *Get the Party Started* by Pink. **ADVISORY:** there is one inappropriate line in the second verse of the song that you are advised to mute should you choose to play the song. You might also choose to play the first verse only, tape record the song and delete the inappropriate line, or tape record the first and third verses but not the second.

Lesson Preparation:

- Write the essential questions for the lesson on the board.
- Cut the role cards on Handout 1 into individual cards for random distribution.

Procedures:

1. Launch the lesson by describing its purpose. Point to essential questions 1 & 2 on the board and read them aloud. Tell the student that the goal of this lesson is for them to be able to answer the questions correctly.
2. **Phase 1:** Tell students that the state legislature just announced a program designed to encourage young citizens to participate politically. The state has invited students to propose and lobby for one item to be the official state snack. Numerous companies are offering \$1,000 plus a lifetime supply of their product (not really ;) to the student who manages to get his or her product embraced by the class as the official snack for the State.

Option: you might also offer a real incentive in addition to the fictional ones described above...perhaps a little extra credit or a sampling of the actual snack for which they lobby.

3. Access **Handout 2: Role Cards**. Each role card should be cut so that each student receives one card. Distribute one to each student, noting that each card contains directions as well as the snack for which they are to lobby as the official state snack. Ask students to read the directions, review them and field questions.
4. Give the students sufficient time to “work the room” and lobby their classmates to support their snack as the official state snack. Remind students that they are to lobby relentlessly for their product. Their task is to have their own snack embraced by a majority in class.
5. **Phase 2:** After sufficient time elapses, tell the students that there seems to be little progress in terms of agreeing on which snack to propose as a class for the State Snack.

Mini-Lecture: Suggest that this exercise simulates what it would be like to live in a democracy where majorities rule but everyone acts individually in pursuit of their individual interests. Realizing this, people who live in democracies gravitate towards pursuing similar (not necessarily identical) interests in groups so that they can advance interests that are reasonably aligned to their own. In other words, political parties in which people of similar interests work to control government and advance their interests emerge naturally.

6. Mention that you are now going to play a song that helps describe their next task (“Get the Party Started” by Pink). Their task is to see if they can find others in the room who have similar types of snacks (e.g. sweet snacks, healthy snacks, chocolate snacks etc.) to propose. Their goal is to rally a majority behind one snack. Make sure that everyone understands the task then tell the students to organize themselves into groups that will support similar snacks. Encourage them to adopt a name for their group (“party”). Start the music and let the parties evolve.

7. Have students report out on any progress (e.g. the snack they chose or toward which they are gravitating, a group name) that they made in terms of forming majorities that will propose the official state snack. Have one volunteer from each group write the following on the board (or chart paper): name of “party” that evolved, list of members, snack for which the “party” will lobby.
8. Debrief Phases 1 & 2 of the lesson. Ask volunteers how the activities in which they just participated might reveal one or more answers to the essential questions (see below) for this lesson? Point to the questions and read them aloud.
 - Why might political parties be necessary in a democracy?
 - Under what conditions might political parties evolve or collapse?

After students offer their reflections, discuss the enduring understanding for the lesson (see above).

Assessment

Working alone or in small groups, have the students write new lyrics (2-3 verses should be sufficient) for the song “Get the Party Started.” The lyrics must align with the content of this lesson and provide evidence of understanding the answers to the two essential questions for this lesson.

HANDOUT 1: Role Cards

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the "State Snack."

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else's snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **PRETZEL STICKS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the "State Snack."

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else's snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **KIT KATS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the "State Snack."

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else's snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **POPCORN**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **REESE CUPS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **POTATO CHIPS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **JOLLY RANCHERS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **DORITOS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **GUMMY BEARS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **MILKY WAY BARS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **PEANUTS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **SNICKERS BARS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **CORN CHIPS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **ICE CREAM**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **APPLE SLICES**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **OREO COOKIES**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **PEANUT BUTTER CRACKERS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **SKITTLES**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **GRAHAM CRACKERS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **DONUTS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **SUNFLOWER SEEDS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **M & Ms**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **LIFE SAVERS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **CARROT SLICES**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **THREE MUSKETEERS BARS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **GRANOLA BARS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **TWIX BARS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **CRUNCHY CHEESE CURLS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **PEPPERMINT PATTIES**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **SOFT PRETZELS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **CHEWING GUM**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **FRUIT ROLL-UPS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **DARK CHOCOLATE HERSHEY BARS**

Scenario: The state legislature is inviting students from around the state to propose a State Snack. The state has a state bug, a state flower, a state bird etc. But, it does not have a state snack.

Role: A company has agreed to give you \$1,000 and a lifetime supply of their product if you can convince the students in your class to lobby the state legislature to make their product the “State Snack.”

Task: go around the room and be as relentless as you can to get everyone in the class to support your product as the product that the class will push as the State snack. Do not agree to support anyone else’s snack. Be polite but GET YOUR SNACK ADOPTED!

Your proposal for the State Snack is: **CHEESE-IT CRACKERS**