

READING COMPREHENSION

The Bitter Campaign of 1800

Critics complain about today's "negative campaigning." But today's elections can't compare to the presidential election of 1800, in which President John Adams ran against his own vice president, Thomas Jefferson. The bitter campaign resulted in a crisis that ultimately changed the Constitution.

Once fast friends, Jefferson and Adams had become icy antagonists. They were members of opposing political parties: Adams was a Federalist, and Jefferson was a Republican. The campaign reflected the bitterness between the two parties. (1) *Slanders* came from everywhere. (2) Federalists believed in a strong federal government and had *preconceived* notions of Jefferson as a revolutionary, because he admired the recent French Revolution. They warned that he would unleash terror in the United States. One Federalist critic stated that, if Jefferson won, "the soil will be soaked with blood, and the nation black with crime." (3) This was hardly an *objective* assessment of the distinguished vice president.

(4) Republicans were also *partisan*. They accused Adams of trying to marry his daughter to the son of King George III, of England. (5) This charge was an attempt to *deceive* people into believing that Adams wanted to be king of the United States. Even Adams's own party proved disloyal. (6) A highly *subjective* and very critical letter by fellow Federalist Alexander Hamilton was leaked to the press.

According to the Constitution, candidates running for president and vice president were to be listed on the same ballot with no distinction between them. Members of the Electoral College were instructed to choose two names. The candidate who received the most votes would become president; the candidate with the second most votes would become vice president. When the election

results were tallied, Jefferson and his vice-presidential running mate, Aaron Burr, had each won the same number of votes, resulting in a tie for president. Burr refused to step aside—he wanted to be president, too. It was then up to members of the House of Representatives to choose between them. (7) Though the Federalists did not like Burr, they were unable to even *tolerate* the thought of Jefferson as president. So the Federalists voted for Burr, and the Republicans voted for Jefferson. The House voted thirty-five times, but the tie remained.



John Adams



Thomas Jefferson

(8) Finally, powerful Alexander Hamilton, who felt some *partiality* toward Jefferson and did not trust Burr, decided to encourage his party to support Jefferson. (9) A few Federalists from Delaware, wanting an end to the matter, proved *amenable* to Hamilton's influence. They agreed to hand in blank ballots rather than vote for Burr. On the thirty-sixth ballot, just fifteen days before inauguration day, Jefferson was elected president.

(10) Unable to demonstrate *forbearance* in the face of defeat, Adams left Washington, D.C., before dawn on inauguration day. Although Jefferson and Adams eventually reconciled, Burr and Hamilton became bitter enemies. In 1804, Burr killed Hamilton in a duel.

The most important legacy of the election of 1800 was the creation of the Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution. It states that electors must vote for the president and the vice president separately.

Each sentence below refers to a numbered sentence in the passage. Write the letter of the choice that gives the sentence a meaning that is closest to the original sentence.

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|--|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____ 1. _____ came from everywhere. | a. Patience | b. Tricks | c. False statements | d. Fair judgments |
| _____ 2. Federalists had _____ notions of Jefferson as a revolutionary. | a. accepted without question | b. emotional | c. willing | d. formed without knowledge |
| _____ 3. This was hardly a _____ assessment of the distinguished vice president. | a. favorable | b. fair | c. popular | d. harmful |
| _____ 4. Republicans were also _____. | a. willing to trick | b. weak in support | c. strong in support | d. eager to be fair |

NAME _____

DATE _____

- _____ 5: This charge was an attempt to _____ people.
a. trick b. threaten c. consider d. frighten
- _____ 6: A highly _____ and very critical letter was leaked to the press.
a. detailed b. understanding c. agreeable d. personal
- _____ 7: The Federalists were unable to even _____ the thought of Jefferson as president.
a. forget b. endure c. favor d. remember
- _____ 8: Alexander Hamilton felt some _____ toward Jefferson.
a. friendship b. patience c. bias d. dislike
- _____ 9: A few Federalists from Delaware proved _____ to Hamilton's influence.
a. open b. opposed c. hostile d. resistant
- _____ 10: Unable to demonstrate _____ in the face of defeat, Adams left Washington, D.C., before dawn on inauguration day.
a. a trick b. certainty c. gratitude d. patience

Indicate whether the statements below are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage.

- _____ 1. Adams and Jefferson were close friends during the election campaign of 1800.
- _____ 2. Jefferson and Burr were members of the same political party.
- _____ 3. As a result of the election of 1800, a constitutional amendment changed the way electors vote in presidential elections.

WRITE THE DERIVATIVE

Complete the sentence by writing the correct form of the word shown in parentheses. You may not need to change the form that is given.

- _____ 1. The store owner used false advertising to _____ potential customers. (*deception*)
- _____ 2. Citing a series of harmful lies, Congressman Walkowitz accused his opponent of _____ him. (*slander*)
- _____ 3. A judge must make decisions with _____. (*objective*)
- _____ 4. The students were _____ to the new teacher, who assigned very little homework. (*partiality*)
- _____ 5. At times, unfair behavior by others may test your _____. (*tolerate*)
- _____ 6. Amelie was _____ to the idea of having the meeting at her house. (*amenable*)
- _____ 7. Do you think that _____ politics is a part of all democratic systems? (*partisanship*)
- _____ 8. The young babysitter's _____ that babies are easy to take care of was shattered when he took care of the one-year old. (*preconceived*)
- _____ 9. The salesclerk showed great _____ toward the rude customer. (*forbearance*)
- _____ 10. Arguments about which type of music is "best" are pointless because musical tastes involve _____. (*subjective*)