Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Rivera – Social Issues

*We all want the same things in life. We want freedom; we want the chance for prosperity; we want as few people suffering as possible; we want healthy children; we want to have crime-free streets. The argument is how to achieve them…*

**Liberals** believe in government action to achieve equal opportunity and equality for all. It is the duty of the government to alleviate social ills and to protect civil liberties and individual and human rights. Believe the role of the government should be to guarantee that no one is in need. Liberal policies generally emphasize the need for the government to solve problems.

**Conservatives** believe in personal responsibility, limited government, free markets, individual liberty, traditional American values and a strong national defense. Believe the role of government should be to provide people the freedom necessary to pursue their own goals. Conservative policies generally emphasize empowerment of the individual to solve problems.

*NOTE: The terms “left” and “right” define opposite ends of the political spectrum.  In the United States, liberals are referred to as the left or left-wing and conservatives are referred to as the right or right-wing.  On the U.S. political map, blue represents the Democratic Party (which generally upholds liberal principles) and red represents the Republican party (which generally upholds conservative principles).*

**Where do Liberals and Conservatives stand on the issues?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ISSUE** | **LIBERALS** | **CONSERVATIVES** |
| **Abortion** |  |  |
| **Affirmative**  **Action** |  |  |
| **Death Penalty** |  |  |
| **Economy** |  |  |
| **Education** |  |  |
| **Embryonic Stem Cell Research** |  |  |
| **Energy** |  |  |
| **Global Warming – Climate Change** |  |  |
| **Gun Control** |  |  |
| **Health Care** |  |  |
| **Immigration** |  |  |
| **Religion & Government** |  |  |
| **Same Sex Marriage** |  |  |
| **Social Security** |  |  |
| **Taxes** |  |  |
| **United Nations** |  |  |
| **War on Terror** |  |  |
| **Welfare** |  |  |