

Name:

The Election of 1800

Directions: We will be examining a series of documents today surrounding the Election of 1800, the first in US history to involve a transition of power between two rival political groups. Answer the questions that follow using complete sentences.

Document 1: Thomas Jefferson to Joseph Priestley, 3/21/1801

1. How does Jefferson characterize the nature of the election? What phrases or adjectives does he use to describe its character?

2. What metaphor does Jefferson use to describe what would happen in the 'non election of a president?' Does the analogy seem apt/accurate to you?

Document 2: John Adams to Thomas Jefferson, 6/14/1813

1. How would you characterize Adams's tone in the letter? What words or phrases support this view?

2. What events does Adams reference in the letter? How do these compare in scope/nature to an election?

Election of 1800: Notes

<u>Major figures and their party allegiances</u>	<u>Issues at play/stake in the 1800 election</u>
<u>Criticisms/attacks against the candidates</u>	<u>Outcome and Aftermath of the Election</u>

Document Study

Name:

Directions: For this portion of the assignment, study the documents referenced below. Answer the questions at the bottom of the page on a separate sheet of paper.

Document A: Letter from Alexander Hamilton, Concerning the Public Conduct and Character of John Adams, Esq. President of the United States, Published 24 October 1800

[President] Adams has committed some positive and serious errors of Administration; that in addition to these, he has certain fixed points of character which tend naturally to the detriment [negative] of any cause of which he is the chief, of any Administration of which he is the head; that by his ill humors and jealousies he has already divided and distracted the supporters of the Government; that he has furnished deadly weapons to its enemies by unfounded accusations, and has weakened the force of its friends by decrying some of the most influential of them to the utmost of his power; and let it be added, as the necessary effect of such conduct, that he has made great progress in undermining the ground which was gained for the government by his predecessor, and that there is real cause to apprehend, it might totter, if not fall, under his future auspices [guidance].

Document B: 'Congressional Pugilists, found on [A Nation Divided: The Election of 1800](#). The caption is written below.

"He in a trice struck Lyon thrice / Upon his head, enrag'd sir, / Who seiz'd the tongs to ease his wrongs, / And Griswold thus engag'd, sir."

Document C: 'The Providential Detection, found on [A Nation Divided: The Election of 1800](#). Additional context is below.

Note: Jefferson was friends with Mazzei, an Italian physician who settled for a time in Virginia before returning to Europe, and with whom Jefferson shared many private thoughts on government.

Note: The phrase 'Gallic Despotism' can be interpreted as 'French tyrants/dictators.' Which 'god' is Jefferson trying to offer sacrifice to?

Document D: Excerpt from Jefferson's letter to Philip Mazzei, April 24, 1796, found on [A Nation Divided: The Election of 1800](#).

Questions for Document Study

Please respond to the following questions using complete sentences. One mark equals one valid reason, so a three mark question would need three reasons in order to receive full credit.

1. What reasons does Document A give as to why President Adams is a bad Commander in Chief for the United States? [3 marks]
2. What does Document B suggest to us about American impressions of Congress in the 1790s? [2 marks]
3. In what ways, according to Document C, is Jefferson viewed negatively as a candidate for President of the United States? [2 marks]
4. What criticisms does Jefferson charge against the US Government in Document D? [3 marks]