ACTIVITY 3
A WORKSHEET ON ELECTIONS AND THE ECONOMY

Directions: Working with others in your group, use information from Table 2 to answer the following questions, as directed by your teacher.

Part I. Who Won?

1. Circle the winner of each presidential election.

2. Under the column "Incumbent Party Wins or Loses?" Write "Win" or "W" if the incumbent party won the election. Write "Lose" or "L" if the incumbent party lost the election. In each set of listed candidates, the first candidate mentioned is the Democratic candidate and the second candidate is the Republican candidate. In three contests, there was a third-party candidate who is listed as the last entry. To get started, note that the president prior to the Kennedy/Nixon election was Eisenhower, who was a Republican. Therefore, since Kennedy won the presidential election, your group should enter "Lose" in the appropriate spot in the last column of Table 2, since the incumbent party lost the election.

Part II. Predictions

1. Create a Real GDP per capita Growth Rule based on the instructions your teacher gives you.

    Real GDP per capita Growth Rule:

    The incumbent party usually wins if the real GDP per capita growth

    _____ .

2. For each election, write "Win" or "W" in the column under Real GDP per capita Growth Rule if the rule predicts the incumbent party will win. Write "Lose" or "L" in the column if the rule predicts the incumbent party will lose.

    This real GDP per capita Growth Rule is correct_____out of 14 times.

3. Create a Misery Index Rule based on the instructions your teacher gives you.

    Misery Index Rule: The incumbent party usually wins if the misery index

    _____ .

4. For each election, write "Win" or "W" in the column under Misery Index Rule if the rule predicts the incumbent party will win. Write "Lose" or "L" in the column if the rule predicts the incumbent party will lose.

    The Misery Index Rule is correct_____out of 14 times.