U.S. History Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Role of Government Today:**

**Opinions and Current Events**

1. Select which response best matches **your opinion**:
   1. The federal government should do more to solve problems and help meet people’s needs.
   2. The federal government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals
2. Look at the graph on the board (“A Call for More”):
   1. Do the majority of Americans think the role of the government should grow larger or smaller?
   2. Did this match your opinion? Does this surprise you?
   3. How have the opinions of Americans changed on this issue over recent years?
   4. Do you have any ideas as to why peoples’ opinions on this question might be shifting?
3. Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) is the program that we usually describe as welfare. (It used to be called Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).)

Do you think that Americans’ reliance on welfare is increasing or decreasing?

1. Look at the graph on the board (“TANF’s Role As Safety Net…”)
   1. What does this graph suggest about Americans’ reliance on welfare?
   2. Did this match your guess from #3?
   3. Do you have any ideas as to why these numbers might be changing?

**Use the article on Medicaid in Maine to answer the questions on the back**

1. Before reading: What is Medicaid?
2. Also before reading: Do you know how your health care is paid for?
3. What did Mainers vote for on Question 2 on November 7?
4. What is Governor Paul LePage’s position on this issue?
5. How many other states have expanded who was eligible for Medicaid since the Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. ObamaCare) was passed in 2010?
6. How many Mainers would gain health insurance coverage if this expansion goes through and becomes law in Maine?
7. Where would most of the money come from to provide health coverage to these people?
8. **Your opinion:** Do you think the Maine state government should expand the number of people who are covered by Medicaid? Why/why not?