

Consider the definitions below, then in academic voice respond to the prompt with a clear thesis, details from texts, explanations, and a proficient conclusion. Note: response should be organized into multiple paragraphs.

Prompt: In chapter two of the nonfiction narrative *American Plague* by Jim Murphy, Dr. Benjamin Rush is re-introduced. Based on the description of this historical figure, was Dr. Rush a conservative or liberal thinker?

con·serv·a·tive

kən¹ sərˈvədɪv/

adjective

1. tending or disposed to maintaining existing views, conditions, or institutions; cautious about change*
Synonyms: traditionalist, conventional, careful
2. intended to control with caution rather than eliminate a condition or situation with radical procedures*
3. marked by relating to traditional norms of taste, elegance, style, or manners*
4. (politically) less enthusiastic about federal action in general; wants more power given to the states, and more passive federal government that maintains a minimal footprint in social and economic affairs. (U.S. History Professor M.Godfrey via Quora.com)

lib·er·al

¹lib(ə)rəl/

adjective

1. open to new behavior or opinions and willing to discard traditional values*
Synonyms: reformist, progressive, open-handed
2. favoring maximum individual liberty in political and social reform*
3. generous; large*
4. (politically) in favor of more federal action in general, less power to states, active government that attempts to solve problems or encourage outcomes.
(U.S. History Professor M.Godfrey via Quora.com)

*Definitions compiled from Merriam-Webster, Cambridge English Dictionary, Dictionary.com, and Google