to find more Twinkies even with his new "family." Tallahassee is the perfect embodiment of the conservative ideology with his strong ties to tradition and family and his distaste for change. The conservative principle that Tallahassee best embodies is "to enjoy what is available rather than to wish for or to look for something else" (Oakeshott 148), since he never complains about the zombie invasion and seems content to do what he is best at: killing zombies.

The protagonist of the movie, Columbus, undergoes a series of changes to transform into a liberal character. When the apocalypse hits, Columbus is firmly entrenched in his isolated lifestyle, playing computer games every night and maintaining close ties to his parents. Once the zombie invasion has wrecked the country, his primary objective became to return home to Columbus, Ohio so that he can find his family and try and live normally. Columbus also is not a risk taker and errs on the side of extreme caution when making decisions, being very careful not to make a decision that would jeopardize his well-being. Columbus is also a great example of the growth of electronic communication prior to the zombie apocalypse since he never leaves his home and is addicted to playing the computer game "World of Warcraft." After he starts to come out of his shell and change as a character, his opinions of social networking and electronic communication changes and he explains that his favorite part about zombieland is "no Facebook status updates."

Moreover, as the film progresses, Columbus begins to realize that it can be just as important to break the rules as it is to be cautious. Columbus is very interested in impressing what could be the last single girl on the planet (Wichita) and steps entirely out of his comfort zone to prove that he can put on the "hero" image. Unlike the more conservative Tallahassee, he shows that he is willing to change, and during a scene in Bill Murray's theater when Little Rock says her sister likes "bad boys," he promptly knocks over the popcorn they were eating. Columbus transitions from a scared and cautious person to a risk-taking hero who is willing to break his own rules. The pinnacle for this is at the end of the film when his rule "Don't be a Hero" shows up on screen and changes to "Be a Hero," proving that he will break his own rules and face his biggest fear (clowns) to save his loved ones. One of the great lines of the movie is Columbus admitting that Tallahassee was right and his sets of rules were "more like guidelines anyways," and that he has the capacity to break them. The overall optimism towards

his new group of friends and the world in general, combined with his willingness to accept and embrace change, defines him as a liberal character.

Compared to Tallahassee and Columbus, Little Rock and Wichita do not seem to lack a political ideology. These characters have much less screen time and we do not learn much about their backstory. The two girls are more representative of average citizens who are running into constant troubles with their daily lives. Interestingly, whenever Tallahassee and Columbus comes to the aid of girls by themselves, or when they disagree about the best plan of action, they fail. Similar to when Republicans and Democrats butt heads in American politics, the two men bicker and disagree, and nothing is accomplished. The benefits of bipartisanship are revealed in the film's climax when the two finally work together in Pacific Playland, managing to rescue the girls from their predicament and save the day for the time being. Incredible amounts of progress could be made in America if only the political system worked this way, with more compromise and cooperation rather than arguments and inaction.

By the film's end we see the true dichotomy between the small group of survivors and the zombies. Columbus and Tallahassee do a great deal to work on improving or remembering their personal lives and remaining involved in their small ever-changing community. Yet, they are contrasted not to "monsters," but to fairly ordinary people who happen to be zombies. *Zombieland* does a brilliant job of showing the zombies as people, since they wander the streets, stores, and gas stations just like normal people. In fact, many of the zombies in the film (such as the gas station attendant at the gas station and the clown in the amusement park) are still wearing their work uniforms and remain at their place of employment months into the zombie infestation. Since the zombies have some incredible human characteristics, they really seem like a group of citizens completely caught up in intense, self-satisfying behavior. It is mentioned earlier in the movie that Columbus's greatest fear is clowns, and when the clown zombie finally appears, he is frightening because he is clown, not because he is a zombie. A similar point is made when Bill Murray mentions that he saw Eddie Van Halen at the Hollywood Ball among several other celebrities after the zombie apocalypse already happened. A majority of the people discussed or shown in the film are not thought of as zombies, but rather