

...and how democratic are we really?

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?



**The Preamble of the
Constitution of the United
States tells us what the
Government should do...**

Explain in your own words the meaning of each part of the Preamble

- ***We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, **establish Justice**, ensure domestic Tranquility, **provide for the common defence**, promote the general Welfare, and **secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity**, do ordain and establish this constitution of the United States of America.***

That sounds great...so how do we do all that?

- Democracy – Ultimate power rests with the people
 - Types of democracies
 - Direct democracy
 - Representative democracy (republic)
 - So how democratic are we?
 - Core Principles of Democracy
 - Brainstorm
 - Do these apply to all democracies or just our particular democracy?

That sounds great...so how do we do all that?

- ⦿ Democracy – Ultimate power rests with the people
 - Types of democracies
 - Direct democracy
 - Representative democracy (republic)
- ⦿ What does democracy look like?
- ⦿ So how democratic are we?

According to the Center for American Progress, what proportion of U.S. citizens will live at least one year of their lives in poverty?

- A. One-fifth
- B. One-third
- C. One-half

Most poor people in the U.S. live
(Sherman, 2006):

- A. Inner cities
- B. Outside of inner cities

A Princeton study of elite universities in the U.S. found that legacy applicants—people, usually white and wealthy, with a parent or grandparent who attended the institution—are far more privileged by legacy status than applicants of color are by affirmative action policies. The study determined that legacy status was roughly equivalent to how much of a boost to an applicant's SAT score?

- A. 20 points
- B. 90 point
- C. 160 points
- D. 220 points

In low-poverty U.S. schools, one out of every nine courses is taught by a teacher who is not certified to teach it. In high-poverty schools the proportion is (Almy & Theokas, 2010):

- a. one-in-nine
- b. one in six
- c. one- in-four

According to a 2006 report from the American Civil Liberties Union, African Americans comprise more than 37% of people arrested for drug use, 59% of those convicted for drug use, and 74% of those sentenced to prison for drug use.

African Americans comprise what percentage of U.S. drug users?

- a. 15%
- b. 30%
- c. 45%
- d. 60%

What percentage of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender high school students report that their teachers “never” or “rarely” respond to homophobic remarks made by other students, according to a national study by GLSEN?

- a. 15%
- b. 38%
- c. 63%
- d. 85%

Core Principles of Democracy

- So what should democracy look like?

Worth and Dignity of All

- “All men are created equal.”
- All are entitled to equality of opportunity
- No person should be held back because of race, gender, religion, or circumstances of birth



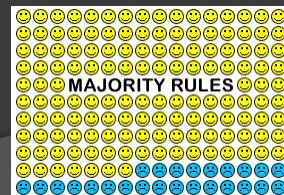
Equality

- Every person is entitled to equal rights and equal treatment under the law
- The law applies equally to everyone



Majority Rule

- The will of the majority (determined through elections) is fundamental to our system
- Expects that the majority will be right more often than it will be wrong
- But what if it is wrong.....or there is still disagreement?



Minority Rights



- The minority has the right to be heard and to participate
- The majority can't oppress or wipe out the minority
- The majority must always recognize the right of any minority to become, by fair means, the majority

The Need for Compromise

- Public decision making must be a matter of give and take in order to find the position most acceptable to the largest number of people
- It is a way of achieving majority agreement
- How is our system built to require compromise?



Individual Freedom

- Each person should be free to develop himself or herself as they decide
- Each person should be as free as possible to think and do as they want
- Freedom from.....and freedom to....
- Where does one person's freedom stop?
- "The right to swing my fist ends where your nose begins."*

In the news...

- With your group, find a current example of each principle of democracy in the news.