

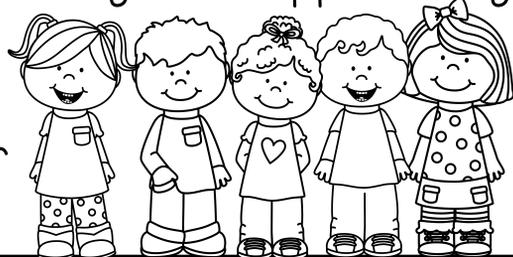


*2nd Grade*  
**GOVERNMENT**  
&  
**CITIZENS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Diversity in a Community

Can you imagine a community where everyone and everything in it is exactly the same? You probably can't, because that kind of a community does not exist! All communities have something called diversity. Diversity simply means a variety or differences, because in your community, and in our entire world, there are lots of different kinds of things. Differences in a community include age, gender, religion, language, traditions, foods, size, and much more. It's important to celebrate the diversity of your community. If everyone and everything around us is exactly the same, things would get boring pretty fast. Celebrating and appreciating diversity helps to make your Community stronger. When we celebrate Diversity in our community, it helps everyone in our community feel safe and welcome.



1. What is diversity?

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2. Why is diversity important?

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3. How do you see diversity in your community?

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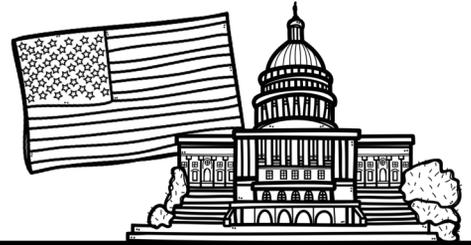
## Quick Assessment:

Allow students time to draw and describe diversity in their own classroom. (3-6 sentences)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Why We Form Governments

Government is a group of citizens picked to make and carry out the rules in their community. People form governments for many reasons. One reason is to keep people in their community safe. Governments help to keep communities safe by having laws and services. Some services that the government provides includes trash pickup, community parks, schools, roads, police, fire, and medical assistance. Laws are created by the government to solve conflicts, protect people, and to remind people in the community that it is important to act in a positive way. Another reason people create governments is to help solve problems in their community. It's not always easy to solve a problem on your own, so governments can help solve problems and issues in court. A judge and jury will decide how the problem can be solved.



1. What is government?

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2. Why do people form government?

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3. What community services does your local government provide?

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## Quick Assessment:

Students complete the sentence "People form governments because.."

Answers should be approximately 2-4 sentences long.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Why Do We Need Laws?

Our government makes the laws that we, as citizens, must follow in order to help keep people safe. A law is like a rule and tells us what we should do or not do in order to keep us safe. We need laws so that we know what we can and cannot do. If everyone did whatever they wanted to, a lot of accidents would happen, and it wouldn't be safe in our community. We have speed limits so we know how fast we can drive to be safe on a road. We also know that we can't litter and put trash anywhere we want to. This would make our community dirty, unhealthy, and unsafe for the citizens who live there. Laws also help to solve problems when people don't agree on something. They also help to protect people's rights and make sure everyone is treated fairly and equally.



1. What is a law?

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2. Why are laws important?

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3. What law do you think your community should have to help keep people safe?

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## Quick Assessment:

Students write 3 reasons why we need laws in our community or rules in our classroom.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# What If We Had No Laws?

Katie was walking home from her friends house one day and saw a police officer pull over a man for speeding. As she walked by, Katie looked at the police officer and smiled. She couldn't help but think of how lucky she was to have someone to keep her safe.

Directions: Rewrite the story to show what would have happened if Katie's community did not have laws.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# 3 Branches of Government

Each community has their own government, and each government has three branches. Each branch of the government has a different job in the community. The Mayor enforces the laws, the court defines the laws, and the council makes the laws. We also have government in our state and our country. Our national government's branches are executive, judicial, and legislative. The executive branch, the President, enforces the laws. The judicial branch defines or interprets the laws. The legislative branch makes the laws. Each step of the government has the same kind of branches, but the names we call them can be different. The executive branch of your community and state are the mayor and governor. The governor is the leader of your state, just like the mayor is the leader of your community and the president is the leader of your country. All three are part of the executive branch.

1. What are the 3 branches of your local government?

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2. What are the 3 branches of our national government?

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3. Should citizens who are not part of the council have a say in what laws are made?

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## Quick Assessment:

Students may complete the Jobs of the Mayor, Governor, and President page.

# THE MAYOR...

- Is the leader of community
- Works with other members of the government to make decisions
- Makes important decisions for their community
- Listens to ideas from the community about their community
- Tries to help solve problems in their community
- Works with the police & fire departments
- Helps to handle different emergencies



# THE GOVERNOR...

- Is the leader of a state
- Works in the state capital
- Works with other members of the government to make decisions – such as vetoing bills
- Makes important decisions for the state
- Signs and enforces laws in the state
- The leader of the state national guard
- Tries to solve problems in their state and listens to the ideas from citizens in their state



# THE PRESIDENT...

- Is the leader of our country
- Works and lives in Washington D.C.
- Works with other members of the government to make decisions
- Makes important decisions for the United States
- Signs and enforces laws in the United States
- Meets with world leaders to try and solve problems in the world
- Is the leader of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines



Name \_\_\_\_\_

How are the jobs of the mayor,  
governor, and president alike?

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How are the jobs of the mayor,  
governor, and president different?

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Which job would you want?

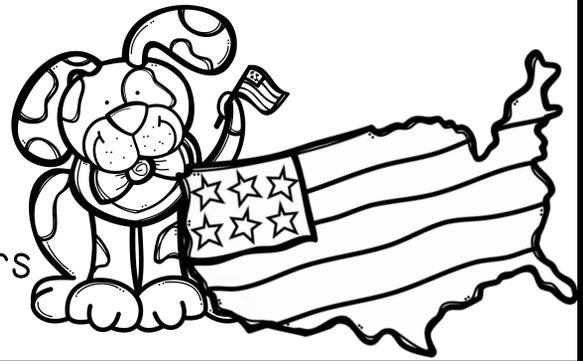
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Our Core Democratic Values

The Core Democratic Values are the beliefs that we find important for everyone in our nation. They are also known as our Fundamental Beliefs. These values can be found in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and other important United States documents. There are eleven democratic values - life, equality, liberty, justice, the common good, popular sovereignty, patriotism, diversity, truth, rule of law, and the pursuit of happiness. These values tell us what we, as Americans, deserve to have or be.

For example, we all have the right to be happy and work together to benefit others in our community. We should celebrate differences and expect others to always tell the truth.



1. What are the core democratic values?

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2. Where can you find the core democratic values?

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3. Which two values do you think are the most important? Why are they the most important to you?

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## Quick Assessment:

Students can chose to illustrate and write 2 sentences about one of the core democratic values

# A LETTER TO THE MAYOR

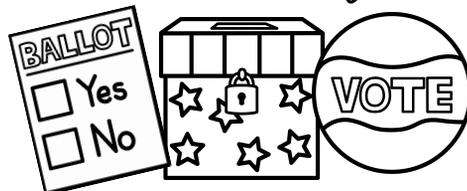
While studying the common good and individual rights, as a class, come up with a problem in your community. Brainstorm different ways that the government can solve this problem. Prewrite, polish it up, and then write a letter to the mayor of your city with your classes suggested ideas. Students can also illustrate their ideas in the box at the top of their letter.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Civic & Personal Responsibility

All citizens play an important role as a member of their community. Every member of the community has a responsibility to obey the laws, help keep the community safe, vote, and solve community problems. These are all part of a citizen's civic responsibilities. These are the things that members in the community are supposed to do. You are a citizen of your own community, your school, and even in your own classroom. All citizens also have personal responsibilities, which are the things that they are supposed to do on their own. Some of your important personal responsibilities are to brush your teeth, do your homework, keep your room clean, and help keep your home clean. If your school wanted you to vote on new playground equipment or new lunch tables, it would be your civic responsibility to vote which one you'd pick.



1. What is a civic responsibility?

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2. What is a personal responsibility?

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3. What are some of the civic responsibilities you have in your community as a student?

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## Quick Assessment:

Students complete Civic/Personal Responsibilities draw and write activity independently.

# CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Things members of the community are supposed to do.



**KEEP THINGS  
CLEAN & SAFE**



**HELP SOLVE  
PROBLEMS**



**OBEY  
LAWS**



**VOTE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Draw and write a sentence for a civic responsibility and personal responsibility.

**Civic Responsibilities**

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**Personal Responsibilities**

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