

## Signposts of Democracy Lesson

### Student Outcomes

As a result of this lesson students will be able to:

- Analyze the principles of democracy at work in their country.
- Discuss ways to strengthen democratic principles in their country.

### Materials

Copy of **Signposts of Democracy Worksheet** for each student

### Procedure

**Introduction** (5 -7 minutes)

- Review with students the definitions of the principles of democracy.
- Distribute the worksheet and tell students to 1) look at the principles, and 2) begin to think of examples for each of the principles from something they see in everyday life or hear on the news. They should think of good examples and bad examples.
- They will be working in groups to “score” their country (state, city or town) and be able to give reasons for their score.

### Activity

- Assign students to groups of no more than 5.
- Have them select a recorder and reporter.
- Give them 20 minutes for the entire list or assign 3 -5 principles to each group in order to do the activity more quickly, or perhaps with more depth.
- The reporters should report on the decisions made by each group. The instructor may want to tally this on a chart for later discussion.

### Discussion and Reflection








- Which principles did the groups agree are working in their country (state, city or town)? Why do they think these principles are so strong? After looking at the ones they agreed on, ask what other principles did groups select and why?
- Which principles did they agree on that are not working? What do they think the problems are that are hurting this principle? After looking at the ones they agreed on, ask what other principles groups selected and why. What made these principles so important to that group? Why did other groups not select them?
- What can citizens do to support the development of the principles that are struggling in their country? Identify organizations or NGOs that have identified particular democratic principles in their missions. What work are they doing?







## Signposts of Democracy Worksheet

3 – Good (Not Perfect)

2 – Needs Work

1 – Not So Good (Needs a LOT of Work)

 Citizen Participation			
 Equality			
 Political Tolerance			
 Accountability			
 Transparency			
 Free & Fair Elections			
 Economic Freedom			

 <p>Control of the Abuse of Power</p>			
 <p>Accepting the Results of Elections</p>			
 <p>Human Rights</p>			
 <p>Multi-Party Systems</p>			
 <p>The Rule of Law</p>			
 <p>Bill of Rights</p>			



**0 – 10:** Caution! Danger ahead for democracy.

**11 - 21:** Democracy under construction.

**22 – 36:** Green Light! Democracy is thriving.