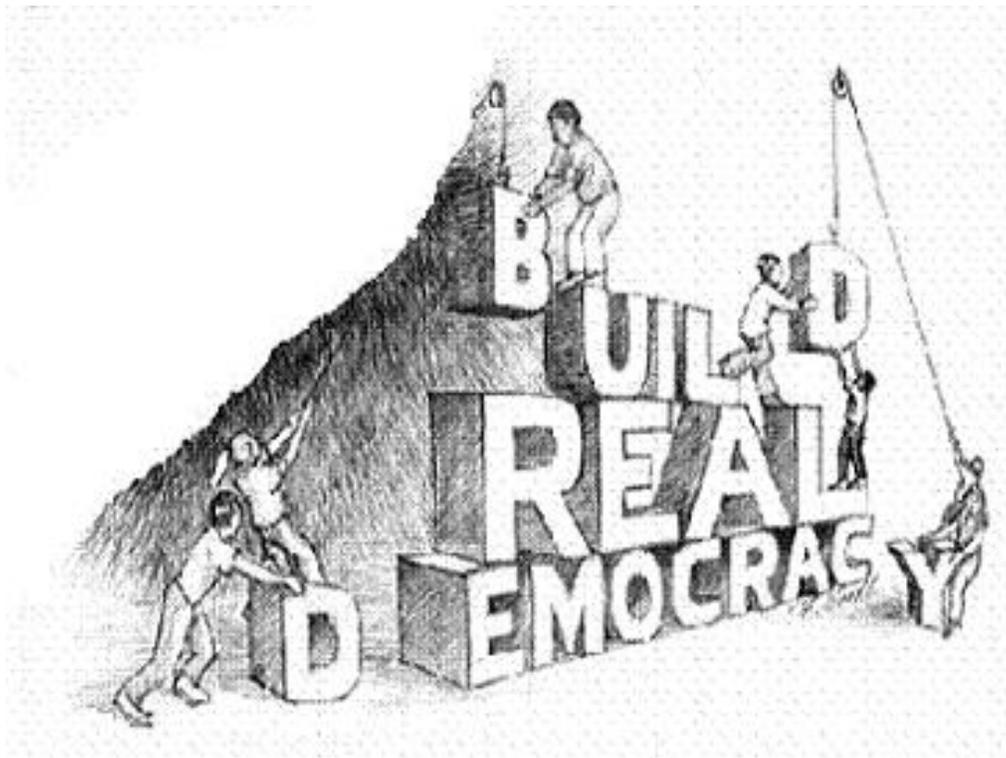


Freedom and Responsibility in a Democracy



Big Idea

Awareness, involvement and exercising the right to vote are fundamental responsibilities in a democratic society.

Student Activity

A Homework

Poll members of the community on what they consider to be the most important (local/provincial/federal/global) issue. Ask at least 5 people from different demographic groups. (demographic groups include age, gender, race, etc.)

B Small Group Discussion

1. Work in groups of three. Share the information you collected in your poll and add results to the word wall.
2. Refer to the word wall and talk together.

- What issues are represented most?
- What does the overall collection say about what is going on in the community?
- What are people worried about? What concerns them?
- Which ones jump out for you?
- What is it about this issue that is so important do you think?
- How might different demographic groups view the issue?

3. As a group select one of the issues for your study.

4. Become familiar .

You want to be informed enough to answer general questions on your issue.

- What is the history?
- Who is involved
- What are the issues
- Is this new or something the community has been working on for a while?

You will host a radio talk show with a Question and Answer segment before the election so be prepared.

B **Going to Scale**
Design a questionnaire and poll people you know about the issue you have identified.

Ask if they have any questions they would like answered or information they think might be helpful to know before the election.

Contact local members of each political party and ask for their position on the issue. Ask them the questions from your survey.

D Design a way to share what you have learned through your research, interviews with politicians and your poll with your community in a balanced and fair way.

Congratulations! You and made a real contribution to voter engagement and understanding. True democracy

Criteria for self assessment

- Are you able to isolate an issue that reflects the concerns of your community and that allows you to do some thoughtful investigation?
- Is your questionnaire designed to gather useful information related specifically to your issue?
- Do you use the information you have collected to examine all sides of an issues. Do you draw your conclusions based on this balance?
- Are you able to present information you have collected in an organized way that makes sense and focuses on the issue?