

ORIENTATION ACTIVITY ONE

PART II

ACTIVITY “A” CARD WHAT IS “PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES?”

More than 2000 years ago, the ancient Greeks invented the word “democracy” for their social and political order. The literal meaning of the Greek word **DEMOCRACY** is **THE RULE OF THE PEOPLE**. This idea of self-rule, or rule by the people, is the first known system of democracy in the world. The Greeks organized themselves, not into large kingdoms, but rather into tiny, self-governing city-states.

Not only did the Greeks form some of the first cities on the European continent, they also made city life and its politics central to their way of life. How should cities be run? Who should be a citizen? How should public policy be determined? Who should rule? A king? A dictator? The local aristocrats? The richest men? All the people? The answers that the different Greek cities gave to these questions have added other words to our vocabulary: monarchy (“rule by one”), tyranny (dictatorial rule by an illegal usurper), and oligarchy (“rule by the few”). The Greek system of democracy was also perhaps the earliest and most widely known effort in history to replace rule by kings, dictators, and aristocrats with the democratic rule of the many.

Directions: Discuss the following questions with your group:

1. Examine the idea of PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES. What does this concept mean personally to each group member?
2. What are the similarities and differences between what PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES means to each group member? What are the implications of these similarities and differences?
3. What are the pros and cons of PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES?

Task: Prepare a visual that will enable you to present to the class the positive and negative aspects of PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES, as well as the different perspectives of your group members.

TASK EVALUATION CRITERIA ACTIVITY “A”

- **Visual clearly shows the positive and negative aspects of PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES.**
- **Visual clearly represents each group member’s perspective.**
- **Visual can be clearly seen and read from the back of the room.**
- **Visual includes relevant symbols, images, words, etc., and presents information in an engaging manner.**
- **Presentation demonstrates how your group’s concept of PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES contributes to an understanding of democracy.**

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ACTIVITY “B” CARD WHAT IS “RULING?”

More than 2000 years ago, the ancient Greeks invented the word “democracy” for their social and political order. The literal meaning of the Greek word **DEMOCRACY** is **THE RULE OF THE PEOPLE**. This idea of self-rule, or rule by the people, is the first known system of democracy in the world. The Greeks organized themselves, not into large kingdoms, but rather into tiny, self-governing city-states.

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Directions: Discuss the following questions with your group:

1. Examine what it means to say **PEOPLE RULE THEMSELVES**. What does each group member think **RULING** means? Is ruling only deciding what should happen to whom?
2. What are the pros and cons of **PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES**?
3. If you were asked to rule this class, or a country, or a state, how would your group accomplish **RULING**? Would laws and rules play a part in the process? How? Why?

Task: Prepare a visual that will teach the class about how your group defines the concept of **RULING** and how your conception of **RULING** functions.

**TASK EVALUATION
CRITERIA
ACTIVITY “B”**

- **Visual clearly defines the concept of RULING.**
- **Visual clearly explains how your group’s conception of RULING functions.**
- **Visual can be clearly seen and read from the back of the room.**
- **Visual includes relevant symbols, images, words, etc., and presents information in an engaging manner.**
- **Presentation demonstrates how your group’s concept of PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES contributes to an understanding of democracy.**

ORIENTATION ACTIVITY ONE

PART II

ACTIVITY “C” CARD WHERE SHOULD PEOPLE RULE THEMSELVES?

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Directions: Discuss the following questions with your group:

1. Examine the idea of **PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES** in terms of cultural, geographic, and political boundaries. Identify and discuss how **PEOPLE** would **RULE THEMSELVES** in each of these contexts:
 - Neighborhood
 - City
 - County
 - Region
 - State
 - Country
 - Continent
2. What are the pros and cons of **PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES** in these various contexts?
3. Which of these contexts do you think is the best level or size for **PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES** and why?

Task: Prepare a visual that will teach the class about why your group’s chosen context is the best level or size in which **PEOPLE RULE THEMSELVES**.

TASK EVALUATION CRITERIA ACTIVITY “C”

- **Visual clearly identifies which level or size community your group thinks is the best setting for PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES.**
- **Visual justifies why your group thinks the level or size community you chose is the best setting for PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES.**
- **Visual can be clearly seen and read from the back of the room.**
- **Visual includes relevant symbols, images, words, etc., and presents information in an engaging manner.**
- **Presentation demonstrates how your group’s concept of PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES contributes to an understanding of democracy.**

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ACTIVITY “D” CARD WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD RULE THEMSELVES?

More than 2000 years ago, the ancient Greeks invented the word “democracy” for their social and political order. The literal meaning of the Greek word **DEMOCRACY** is **THE RULE OF THE PEOPLE**. This idea of self-rule, or rule by the people, is the first known system of democracy in the world. The Greeks organized themselves, not into large kingdoms, but rather into tiny, self-governing city-states.

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Directions: Discuss the following questions with your group.

1. Your group must determine which PEOPLE should rule themselves in a particular country of your choice, and why.
 - Everyone?
 - Only adults?
 - Only men or only women?
 - Only children?
 - Citizens?
 - Immigrants who are not citizens?
 - Only legal immigrants?
 - Undocumented, illegal immigrants?
 - Visitors and/or tourists from other countries?
 - Only people who speak your country’s language?
 - Only people who have a college education?
 - Other groups of people?
2. What are the pros and cons of excluding certain groups from participating in the decision-making process?
3. What are the implications of your decision about which people should rule themselves?

Task: Prepare a visual that presents both the reasons for choosing particular groups of people as well as the reasons for not choosing particular groups. Be sure to have multiple, specific reasons for each choice.

TASK EVALUATION CRITERIA ACTIVITY “D”

- **Visual clearly shows which groups of PEOPLE should RULE THEMSELVES.**
- **Visual includes multiple, specific reasons for each choice your group made.**
- **Visual can be clearly seen and read from the back of the room.**
- **Visual includes relevant symbols, images, words, etc., and presents information in an engaging manner.**
- **Presentation demonstrates how your group’s concept of PEOPLE RULING THEMSELVES contributes to an understanding of democracy.**