



ACTIVITY: 'OUR LEGISLATION'

TIME: 15+ minutes
SIZE: Groups of two to four
SPACE: For small groups to sit and work
RESOURCES: Pens, paper

The aim is for students to think about the rules which govern successful groups.

The result should be an appreciation that rules reflect value systems held generally by the majority of group members.

1. Discuss briefly the value systems from which most common laws arise.
2. Break the class down into groups of two to four, preferably by a random system.
3. Groups have five minutes to agree on a rule or law (including, at your discretion, school rules) they think should be written or re-written.
4. Allow another five minutes for groups to draft their new 'legislation' that they can put to the 'House' (larger group/class).
5. Each group puts their proposed new 'legislation' before the 'House' (class). As each group does so, ensure that consequences are considered (e.g. material costs and social costs, benefits).



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- Every group – from those as big as a whole country to as small as a dating couple – must abide by written and/or unwritten rules in order to prosper. How did the laws proposed during the activity reflect the values of a) the small group members and b) the whole class?
- Why did the laws that got voted in by the 'House' succeed?
- Why did the laws that got voted down by the 'House' fail?
- How are laws made/amended in our country?
- How are/were laws made/amended in other countries/times in history?
- What happens when we as individuals don't abide by laws of social relationships? What are the possible consequences?
- How do laws increase or decrease our Sense of Belonging to a group?