

Community

Government – Get it? Got it? Good!



Years 5 & 6

Through investigations into our democratic system and principles, students consider where democracy exists in their lives. They examine contemporary issues through the lens of democracy and consider the strengths and challenges we face as a national community.

Rationale

To enable us to be effective democratic citizens we need to understand the values and principles of democracy that guide the communities in which we live.

Essential questions

Where and how does democracy feature in my life?
Are all groups within our community treated as equal?
Is there such a thing as a bad law and how could you get it changed?

Glossary

Australian, autocracy, citizenship, clarity, communist, community, constitution, decision making, democracy, democratic principles, dependence, dictatorship, equality, federal, federation, freedom of speech, functions, government, Governor General, harmony, House of Representatives, independence, influence, interdependence, interpretations, issues, laws, leadership, levels, lobbying, local government, monarchy, opinions, parliament, parliamentarian, politics, precision, prime minister, process, recommendations, resolution, responsibility, rights, roles, Senate, significant, state government, suffragette, system, totalitarian state, values, viewpoints

Rich assessment task

At the end of this unit students will participate in a 'real-life' democratic election. They will reflect on what they have learned about our parliamentary system and consider own roles as citizens and active participants in governance.

Future action

Through gaining an understanding of democracy, students will understand their role as active citizens who are able to vote and make decisions about what happens in their lives. They will appreciate the importance of our laws and how they can make a contribution to our Australian society. In the first instance they will see democracy in action within a classroom in their school, as well as understanding, in a broader way, democratic processes that take place in local, state and federal governance.