

# Fourth Grade Social Studies



## Unit 6: Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

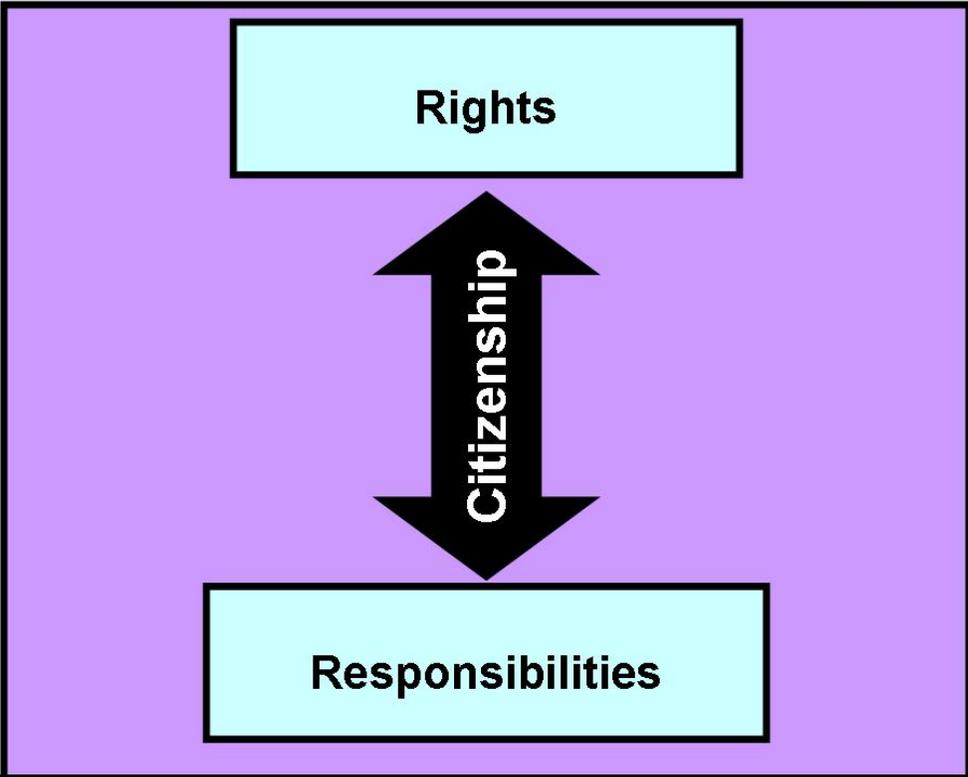
# Big Picture Graphic

Overarching Question:  
**Why are rights and responsibilities of citizenship essential to our form of government?**

Previous Unit:  
**Our Federal Government**

This Unit:  
**Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship**

Next Unit:  
**Fifth Grade Early American History**



- Questions To Focus Assessment and Instruction:
1. How are rights and responsibilities related?
  2. How can citizens work together to improve their government?
  3. Why are rights and responsibilities of citizenship essential to our form of government?

Types of Thinking  
 Classification  
 Evidentiary Argument  
 Identifying Perspectives  
 Issue Analysis  
 Problem Solving

# Questions for Students

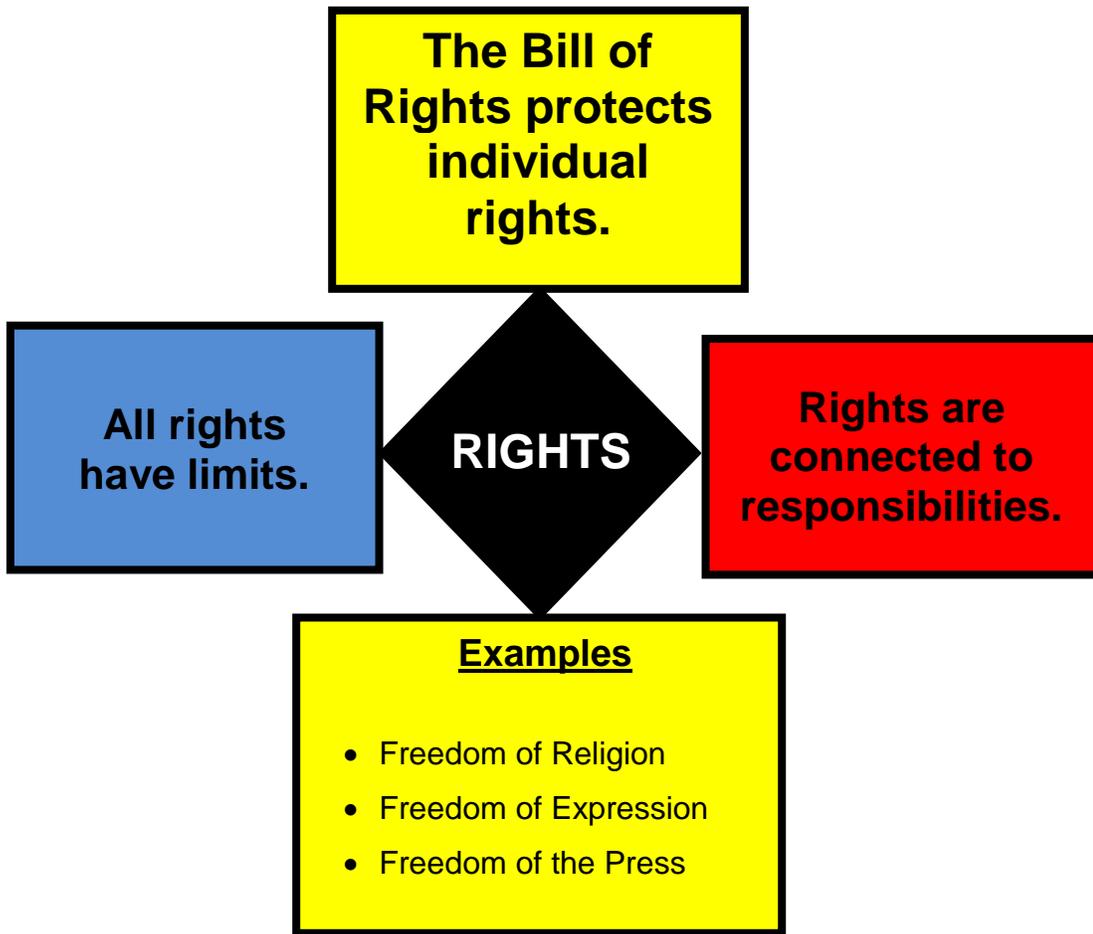
In this unit, we are going to be learning about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Think about the focus questions:

1. How are rights and responsibilities related?
2. How can citizens work together to improve their government?
3. Why are rights and responsibilities of citizenship essential to our form of government?

Use the chart below to write or draw about these questions.

<b>Things I Know</b>	<b>Questions I Have</b>

## Lesson 1 Graphic Organizer



### Big Ideas of Lesson 1, Unit 6

- The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments to the Constitution. These amendments identify important individual rights.
- The First Amendment guarantees freedom of expression which includes freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly.
- The First Amendment also guarantees freedom of religion.
- Sometimes we have to put limits on rights. For example, freedom of speech does not allow you to yell “fire” in a crowded place when there is no fire.
- Rights come with responsibilities.

## Word Cards

<p><b>1</b> <b>Bill of Rights</b></p> <p>the first ten amendments, or additions, to the Constitution which give people important rights such as freedom of speech</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The Bill of Rights is an important part of the Constitution.</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>individual rights</b></p> <p>things a an individual person is entitled to have or to do</p> <p><b>Example:</b> You have the right to own property. You have the right to speak freely.</p>
<p><b>3</b> <b>freedom of expression</b></p> <p>the rights of speech, press, assembly, and petition</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The First Amendment guarantees people the right to freedom of expression.</p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>freedom of speech</b></p>  <p>the right to say what you want and to talk about your beliefs, ideas, and feelings</p> <p><b>Example:</b> He exercised freedom of speech when he stood up and gave his opinion in the meeting.</p>
<p><b>5</b> <b>freedom of the press</b></p>  <p>the right to write and read what you want</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The newspaper exercised freedom of the press when it included an article criticizing the president.</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>freedom of assembly</b></p>  <p>the right to meet with others</p> <p><b>Example:</b> She exercised freedom of assembly when she held a meeting in her home to discuss problems with the new mayor.</p>

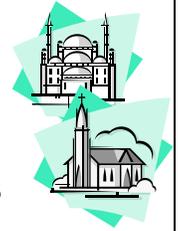
## 7 freedom of petition



the right to ask the government to correct something you think is wrong

**Example:** She exercised freedom of petition when she got other people to sign a petition objecting to the new law.

## 8 freedom of religion



the right to have any religious beliefs you want or no religious beliefs at all

**Example:** We have many different religions in our country because we believe in freedom of religion.

## The Bill of Rights

**Amendment One** guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom for people to get together peacefully, and freedom for people to send petitions to their government.

**Amendment Two** states that in order to have a prepared military, people are guaranteed the right to keep and bear arms.

**Amendment Three** states that the government cannot force people to house and feed soldiers in their homes during times of peace.

**Amendment Four** states that people, their homes and their belongings are protected from unreasonable searches of seizures.

**Amendment Five** guarantees a person accused of a serious crime the right to be charged by a grand jury. It also states that people cannot be forced to give evidence against themselves. If a person is found not guilty of a crime, he/she cannot be put on trial for the same crime again. Finally, the federal government cannot unfairly take peoples' lives, freedom, or property.

**Amendment Six** guarantees a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury if a person is accused of a crime. The accused person also has the right to be told what they are accused of and they have the right to a lawyer. They also have the right to see and to question those people who have accused them of the crime.

**Amendment Seven** guarantees a trial by jury in civil cases.

**Amendment Eight** says that courts cannot use cruel or unusual punishment or set bail and fines that are too high.

**Amendment Nine** states that the people have other rights that are not stated here.

**Amendment Ten** states that the people have all the rights not given to the United States government or forbidden to state governments by the U.S. Constitution.

## The First Amendment

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

### Freedom of Expression

**Speech:** the right to say what you want; to talk about your beliefs, ideas, or feelings

**Press:** the right to write and read what you want

**Assembly:** the right to meet with others to talk about what you wish and share your beliefs, ideas, or feelings

**Petition:** the right to ask the government to correct something you think is wrong

# Should There Be Limits on the Freedom of Expression?

## Group Activity Sheet

	<b>Yes or No?</b>	<b>Why?</b>
1. Some people consider writing graffiti on walls and other places a way to express themselves. Should graffiti be allowed?		
2. Some people express themselves by wearing certain kinds of T-shirts. Should schools ban certain kinds of T-shirts?		
3. People can express themselves by making phone calls. Should prank calls be allowed?		
4. Some people express themselves by playing certain kinds of music. Should communities be allowed to pass laws that limit how loud music can be played?		
5. Sometimes groups hold views that are unpopular with a lot of people. Should these groups be allowed to give public speeches in a park?		
6. Should someone be allowed to publish an ad that says mean things about another person?		

# Freedom of Religion

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;*



## **Establishment Clause**

- Congress cannot establish an official religion for our country.
- The government cannot favor one religion over any others.



## **Free Exercise Clause**

- You can have any religious beliefs you want.
- You are free to have no religious beliefs at all.
- The government cannot unfairly limit your right to practice your religious beliefs.

## Everyday Life and the First Amendment

**Directions:** Each situation below relates to a First Amendment right. Decide which right is at issue and put the correct answer in the space next to the number.

### First Amendment rights:

**religion****assembly****speech****petition****press**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Two people working at a small grocery store printed flyers describing what they considered to be unfair work conditions at the store. They handed out the flyers in front of the store.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ A group of high school students were unhappy about the firing of a teacher at their school. They met in front of the school district offices to protest the firing.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ A neighbor went door to door in her neighborhood asking people to write letters to the mayor protesting the closing of a park in the neighborhood.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ A person stood in front of a lumber company's main office with a sign that said: "Stop cutting down trees!"
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A student used the Internet to research several different newspapers and their coverage of the war in Iraq.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Two students wore buttons to school that said, "We want a longer recess."
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Two people attended a community dinner. They refused to bow their heads during a prayer that was said at the beginning of the event.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ A former teacher began a small newspaper in her town. In the paper she often criticized school district officials and the mayor of the town.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ When the city council threatened to close a park in a neighborhood a large group of people met at the park to discuss a plan of action.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Jones made it a habit to attend a different church every Sunday for a whole year.

### Analyzing a Newspaper Article

<b>Headline of News Article</b>	
<b>Summary of Article</b>	
<b>To what right or rights is this article connected?</b>	

## Judge orders S.C. to stop making 'I Believe' license plates

BY TIM SMITH • STAFF WRITER • DECEMBER 12, 2008

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COLUMBIA -- A federal judge on Thursday temporarily stopped the state from making and issuing "I Believe" religious license plates, granting a request from a group that had argued the plates showed an unconstitutional preference for Christianity.

U.S. District Court Judge Cameron McGowan Currie issued the preliminary injunction after finding that the statute creating the plate violated the constitutional establishment clause forbidding government from establishing a religion.

The license plate, approved by the Legislature, contains a stained glass emblem with a cross on it and the words "I Believe" on top. No plates have been distributed, though hundreds have been ordered.

"I am extremely disappointed in the court's ruling, and feel the 'I Believe' license tag is completely constitutional," state Attorney General Henry McMaster said. "I will strongly urge and recommend that the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Corrections immediately appeal this decision to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals."

Currie found that for the purposes of an injunction, the law creating the plate didn't have a secular purpose, didn't have a primarily secular effect and entangled religion and government. To avoid an injunction, she said, the statute would have had to have passed all three parts of that legal test.

"I find it unlikely the act satisfies even one of these," she said.

Washington-based Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed a lawsuit earlier this year against DMV and the prison system, which makes all license plates, on behalf of some religious leaders and the Hindu American Foundation who claimed their First Amendment rights were infringed by the plates.

Lawmakers voted unanimously for the plates, and some said they wouldn't vote for plates for minority faiths, Americans United argued.

Currie ordered that the state cease any production of the plates, stop taking any orders for them and provide for an alternative plate for those who have already paid for the plates until the lawsuit is decided.

Kevin Hall, a lawyer who argued the case for DMV, said officials would review the case to decide whether to appeal Currie's ruling. "This is the first step in what likely will be a long-term process," he said afterward.

Source: *Judge orders S.C. to stop making 'I Believe' license plates*. 28 December 2008  
<<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20081212/NEWS/312120001/1001/NEWS01>>.

## Illinois city shouldn't have silenced man at council meeting

**By The Associated Press  
Sunday, December 28, 2008**

CHICAGO — A federal judge says the city of Waukegan violated the First Amendment rights of a resident who wasn't allowed to speak at a 2002 City Council meeting.

Jose Zurita went to the meeting to protest a vehicle-towing ordinance. But Mayor Richard Hyde asked him to apologize before speaking because of a separate incident involving a city worker overseeing a protest Zurita helped plan.

U.S. District Judge Milton Shadur wrote in a 60-page decision released Dec. 22 that the city violated Zurita's rights.

The lawsuit contains many claims connected to the ordinance and names Hyde and Police Chief William Biang.

Waukegan attorney James Flesch said he planned to appeal the ruling. But he says he's happy with other aspects of the judge's decision.

Source: *Illinois city shouldn't have silenced man at council meeting*. First Amendment Center. 24 Feb. 2009 <<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/news.aspx?id=21055>>.

## **New Jersey court rules 'Super Lawyer' ads are protected**

*December 17, 2008*

TRENTON, N.J. - The New Jersey Supreme Court has reversed a ruling that barred attorneys from being advertised as "the best lawyers in America" or similar superlatives.

The high court ruling stems from a 2005 case, in which a New Jersey attorney objected to an advertising magazine titled "New Jersey Super Lawyers" on the grounds it gave the impression that those attorneys were more qualified than others.

A state Supreme Court committee ruled in 2006 that such magazines violated state laws barring ads that are comparative in nature.

But the ruling published Wednesday holds that the ads are a form of commercial speech protected by the First Amendment.

*New Jersey court rules 'Super Lawyer' ads are protected. 28 December 2008*  
<<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--lawyerads1217dec17,0,7039042.story>>.

## Choice of attire at voting booth at stake in suit

By TASHA KATES

Published: December 11, 2008

With the help of local free speech advocates, two Virginia residents have filed a lawsuit against employees of the State Board of Elections over their policy on political attire worn at polling places.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia Foundation Inc., the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression and The Rutherford Institute are representing plaintiffs Jill Borak of Fairfax County and Charles Epes of Richmond.

Borak and Epes both contacted the ACLU about their experiences at the polls on Nov. 4. Epes sported an "Obama/Biden" button to his polling place, the suit said, but a poll worker at the check-in table told him that he had to remove it because campaigning wasn't permitted in the polling place.

Despite asserting that he wasn't campaigning, the lawsuit claims that Epes was told that wearing the button in the polling place was against the law.

After a poll worker told Epes that he would be unable to vote while wearing the button, another solution arose.

"At that point, another poll worker suggested that he cover up the button, and he was given a paper hospital smock," the suit said. "He was then allowed to vote."

According to the suit, Borak wore an "Obama '08" sticker to her polling place on Election Day, but was told by a poll worker that she had to remove her sticker because it was illegal to wear it while voting.

The state's electioneering law states that people can't hand out campaign literature or solicit votes within 40 feet of the entrance of the polling place. The Board of Elections announced its clarified policy on political attire earlier this year as a result of a large increase in new voters.

Officials said anyone who displays an item that advocates for a political candidate will be asked to cover or remove the message while inside the polling place. If the voter did neither, poll workers could file an incident report that would be sent to the local commonwealth's attorney.

John W. Whitehead, founder of The Rutherford Institute, said that while he believes the state's law on electioneering is written properly, he doesn't agree with the State Board of Election's interpretation of that law.

"This is just passive free speech," Whitehead said. "This is just people proudly wearing something they believe in."

The lawsuit was filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia. Epes and Borak are asking for the board's policy to be deemed a violation of the First Amendment and repealed and for court costs.

*Choice of attire at voting booth at stake in suit.* Daily Progress. 24 February 2009

<[http://www.dailyprogress.com/cdp/news/local/article/choice\\_of\\_attire\\_at\\_voting\\_booth\\_at\\_stake\\_in\\_suit/32617/](http://www.dailyprogress.com/cdp/news/local/article/choice_of_attire_at_voting_booth_at_stake_in_suit/32617/)>

## Indiana high court: State can sue over political 'robo-calls'

By The Associated Press  
12.24.08

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — The Indiana Supreme Court says the state can go forward with lawsuits against companies that use autodialing machines to make prerecorded telephone calls in political races.

The court ruled 5-0 yesterday to overturn a trial court's decision to dismiss a state lawsuit against American Family Voices. At issue was whether the state's 1988 law banning so-called "robo-calls" covers political calls as well as commercial and sales calls.

Attorney General Steve Carter said the court ruling would protect Indiana residents from unwanted and illegal telephone calls.

"We aren't giving any free passes to politicians who pummel Indiana with robo calls," Carter said.

Carter's office filed suit against the Washington, D.C., group in 2006 after it made calls criticizing Republican Mike Sodrel during his race against Democrat Baron Hill for southern Indiana's 9th congressional district seat.

American Family Voices claimed Indiana's telemarketing law was clearly intended to regulate only commercial speech which tries to solicit the purchase of goods or services.

The state Republican and Democratic parties, while not named in the lawsuit, filed a joint brief with the state Supreme Court, saying that automated calls used for political messages are protected free speech.

But the state Supreme Court said in *State of Indiana v. American Family Voices, Inc.* that "the law applies to all autodialer calls, not just consumer transaction calls with commercial messages."

The Associated Press left a message seeking comment with American Family Voices and the state Democratic Party. The Indiana Republican Party said it would have no immediate comment.

Campaigns and special-interest groups use robo-calls for purposes such as reminding voters to go to the polls, delivering endorsements or criticizing opponents. They are far cheaper than calls made by volunteers or paid personnel.

More than a dozen states have placed limits or bans on political robo-calls, according to Stateline.org, a project of the Pew Center on the States that tracks state legislation.

*Indiana high court: State can sue over political 'robo-calls'*. First Amendment Center. 24 Feb. 2009  
<<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/news.aspx?id=21053>>.

## **Sikh sues judge over demand for turban removal**

DALLAS — A justice of the peace has been sued for allegedly ordering a man from his courtroom for refusing to remove his turban while defending himself in a traffic-citation case.

The lawsuit filed Aug. 31 charges that Judge Albert B. Cercone violated Amardeep Singh's religious rights because the turban is a religious article for Sikh men.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit on Singh's behalf in state district court in Dallas. It asked that Cercone and other judges be prohibited from forcing people to remove clothing required by their religion.

Singh said he tried to enter Cercone's courtroom in June 2006 to contest a speeding ticket, but a guard barred him under a policy barring hats, and court personnel told him to direct his objections to the judge.

Singh said he tried to explain that his faith requires wearing a turban but that the judge ordered him to leave the courtroom or face arrest.

According to the lawsuit, Singh consulted his uncle, a high priest, before removing the turban and putting his uncut hair in a pony tail to return to the courtroom in a "personally compromising and humiliating position."

The judge did not respond to a request for comment left with his staff.

Navdeep Singh, a spokesman for the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, said the group tried to contact the judge and the Dallas district attorney's office before approaching the ACLU about filing a lawsuit. He said the judge refused to respond and that an assistant district attorney said no prosecutors could recall the incident.

Sikh organizations claim there are about 500,000 adherents in the United States, and they compare the turban to yarmulkes worn by many Orthodox Jews and hijabs worn by many Muslim women.

This week, the New York-based Sikh Coalition protested a new federal policy that calls for more thorough security screening of airline passengers wearing head coverings. The screenings could include a pat-down search of the head.

The Sikh Coalition was joined by more than 25 ethnic and religious groups in saying that the policy singles out people who wear religious head coverings.

Last year, a judge in Georgia apologized to a Sikh American man who was barred from her court for a no-hat policy similar to the one in Dallas.

*Sikh sues judge over demand for turban removal* . First Amendment Center. 24 Feb. 2009  
<<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/news.aspx?id=19003>>.

## **New Jersey inmate challenges ban on prison preaching**

NEWARK, N.J. — A civil liberties group wants a New Jersey prisoner serving time for felony murder and robbery to be allowed to preach at services inside the prison.

Howard Thompson Jr., an inmate at the New Jersey State Prison who is an ordained Pentecostal minister, had been conducting weekly worship services until prison officials issued a 2007 ban on inmate preaching.

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of Thompson that seeks to lift the ban. The suit says the move restricts his religious freedom.

The 44-year-old Thompson is serving 30 years to life.

A Corrections Department spokesman referred questions to the state Attorney General's office, where officials said they hadn't yet seen the lawsuit and couldn't comment.

According to the lawsuit, the Corrections Department in 2007 instituted a ban on all preaching by inmates — even under the supervision of the prison chaplain — without explanation.

“The right to practice one’s faith, or no faith at all, is fundamental and applies inside and outside the prison gates,” said Daniel Mach, director of litigation for the ACLU’s religious-freedom program. “No officials should be in the business of restricting religious exercise.”

Thompson, who entered the facility in 1986, started preaching and running Sunday services more than a decade ago, the lawsuit said, after being asked to fill in for a prison chaplain who fell ill. He also taught Bible study classes and founded a prison choir.

The suit argues that prison chaplains encouraged Thompson’s preaching, which was always done with supervision and without incident.

The ACLU said curtailing Thompson’s sermons is a form of banning religious expression and violates the federally guaranteed religious freedoms of all inmates.

The ACLU filed a similar lawsuit and won their challenge to a preaching ban in Rhode Island prisons last year.

*New Jersey inmate challenges ban on prison preaching* . First Amendment Center. 24 Feb. 2009  
<<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/news.aspx?id=20960>>.

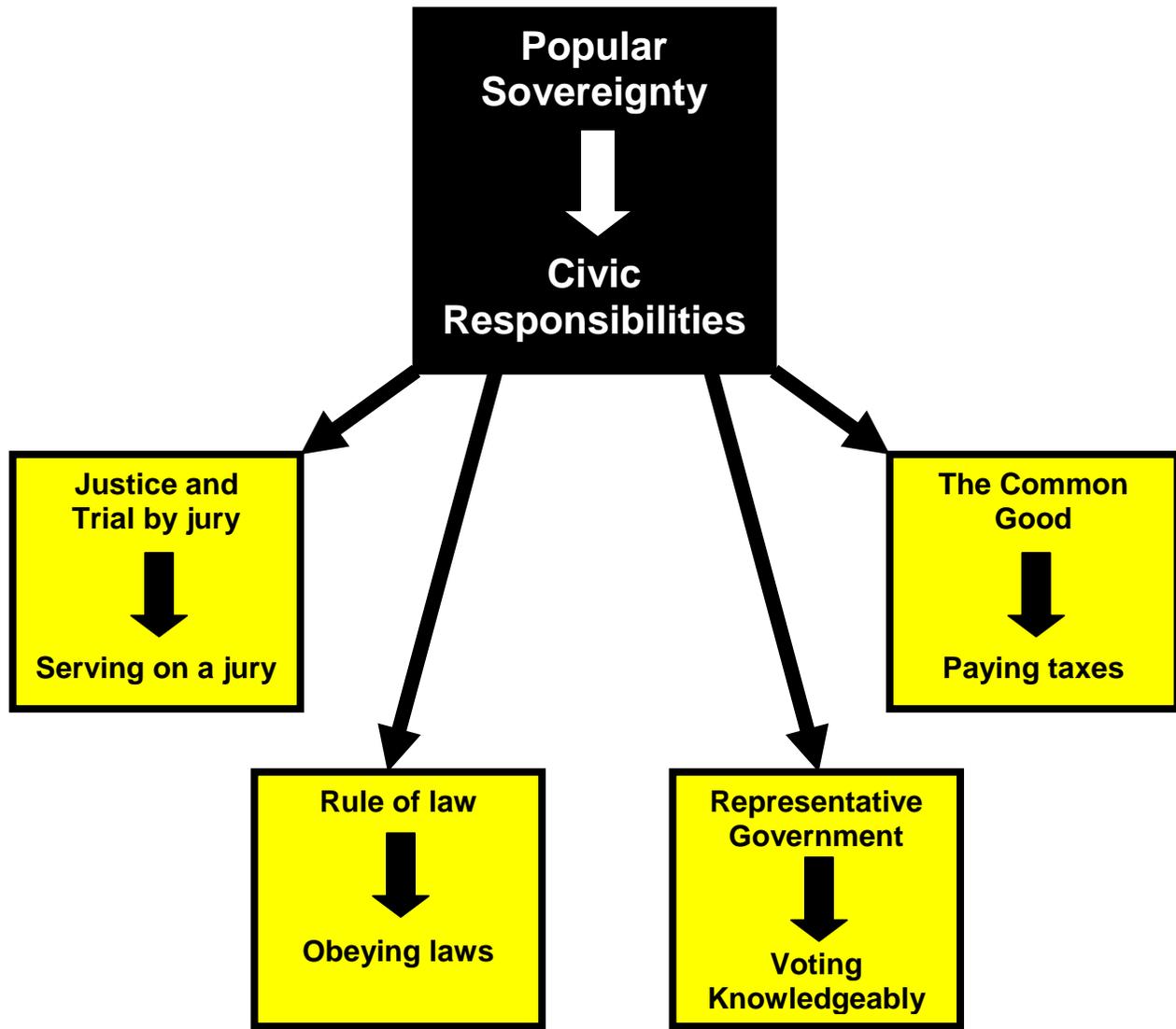
## Rights and Responsibilities

Right	Responsibility
<b>Freedom of Religion</b>	
<b>Freedom of Speech</b>	
<b>Freedom of Petition</b>	
<b>Right to a Fair, Public Trial</b>	
<b>Right to Bear Arms</b>	

### Lesson Review

<p><b>Choose two individual rights from the Bill of Rights and explain why they are important.</b></p>	<p><b>Right:</b></p>	<p><b>Why is it important?</b></p>
	<p><b>Right:</b></p>	<p><b>Why is it important?</b></p>
<p><b>Give an example of why rights are limited.</b></p>		
<p><b>Give an example of how rights and responsibilities are connected.</b></p>		

## Lesson 2 Graphic Organizer



### Big Ideas of Lesson 2, Unit 6

- Popular sovereignty, which means the people hold the power of government, is one of our most important core democratic values.
- Because people hold the power of government they have many civic responsibilities. These responsibilities are connected to other democratic values and principles.
- Because we value justice and the right to a fair trial, citizens have the responsibility to serve on a jury.
- Because we value the rule of law, citizens must respect and obey our laws.
- Because we value the common good, citizens must pay taxes in order for the government to provide services that benefit everyone.
- Because we believe in the principle of representative government, citizens have the responsibility to register to vote and vote knowledgeably.

### Word Cards

#### 9 popular sovereignty



the power and authority of the government comes from the people

**Example:** Popular sovereignty is an important core democratic value.

#### 10 common good

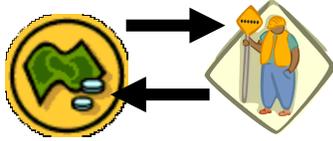


people working together for the benefit of everybody

**Example:** When you help clean up in the classroom you are doing something for the common good.

<p><b>11</b> <b>rule of law</b></p>  <p>everyone, including the people who run the government, must obey the laws</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Communities, states and countries have laws.</p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>justice</b></p>  <p>another word for fairness</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Justice means that people should be treated fairly.</p>
<p><b>13</b> <b>representative government</b></p>  <p>a form of government where people choose representatives to make decisions for them</p> <p><b>Example:</b> In a representative government people elect people to make decisions for them.</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>civic responsibilities</b></p>  <p>things citizens are supposed to do</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Civic responsibilities include obeying laws, voting and paying taxes.</p>
<p><b>15</b> <b>jury</b></p>  <p>a group of citizens who listen to the evidence at a trial and decide if the law has been broken</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The jury listened carefully as evidence was presented.</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>public goods and services</b></p>  <p>goods and services that are produced by a government</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Repairing roads and building schools are examples of public goods and services.</p>

**17  
taxes**



what people pay to a government in exchange for services like schools and road repair

**Example:** People pay taxes to a government. Then, the government uses the tax money to do things fix roads.

**18  
republic**



a government not led by a hereditary rule (leaders based on birth), but where people hold the power of government and choose leaders to make decisions

**Example:** Our government is a republic.

**19  
voting**



the way leaders are chosen in our country

**Example:** Voting knowledgeably is one of our most important civic responsibilities.

## Survey Chart

**Directions: Conduct a survey of four adults and record your data on the chart below.**

Name of person surveyed	What are the two most important responsibilities of a citizen?
	Answer #1
	Answer #2
	Answer #1
	Answer #2
	Answer #1
	Answer #2
	Answer #1
	Answer #2

## **Martin Luther King, Jr. Quotations**

**“One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws, but conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws.”**

**“An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law.”**

## Should You Vote?

That's a good question. After all, lots of Americans don't bother to vote. They think it's a hassle, or they don't know how to do it, or they're afraid it would be hard to figure out who to vote for.

Truth is, those people are missing out on a great thing. Government at all levels has a big effect on our lives. Voting is a way to say what's important to you, and say it straight to the politicians and government officials.

Voting gives you a feeling of being part of America and your community. It can even be fun.

### Choose or Lose

Most Americans know that the government can make a big difference in their lives – sometimes in ways they like, sometimes not. For example:

- If you're going to college or hope to go to college, government scholarship and loan programs can make the difference in whether you're able to afford school.
- If you have kids in public school, you probably want them to get a really good education. In that case, it's the local government or school district that runs the show.
- If you care about clean air or clean water or global warming, it's government at all levels that makes the rules that control pollution.

With so much depending on government, it truly makes sense for you – and your family and friends – to let the government know what you want it to do. And Election Day is the best time to do that.

That's when all the politicians are paying attention to you. From the president to the state governor to the local school board, they all want your vote. If they don't get enough votes, they won't get the job.

What's more, voting is one of the few times when all Americans are equal. We're not all rich, or beautiful, or friends of the mayor. But each of us has one vote.

Even if the person you vote for doesn't win, your vote still makes a difference, because it shows there was support for another point of view.

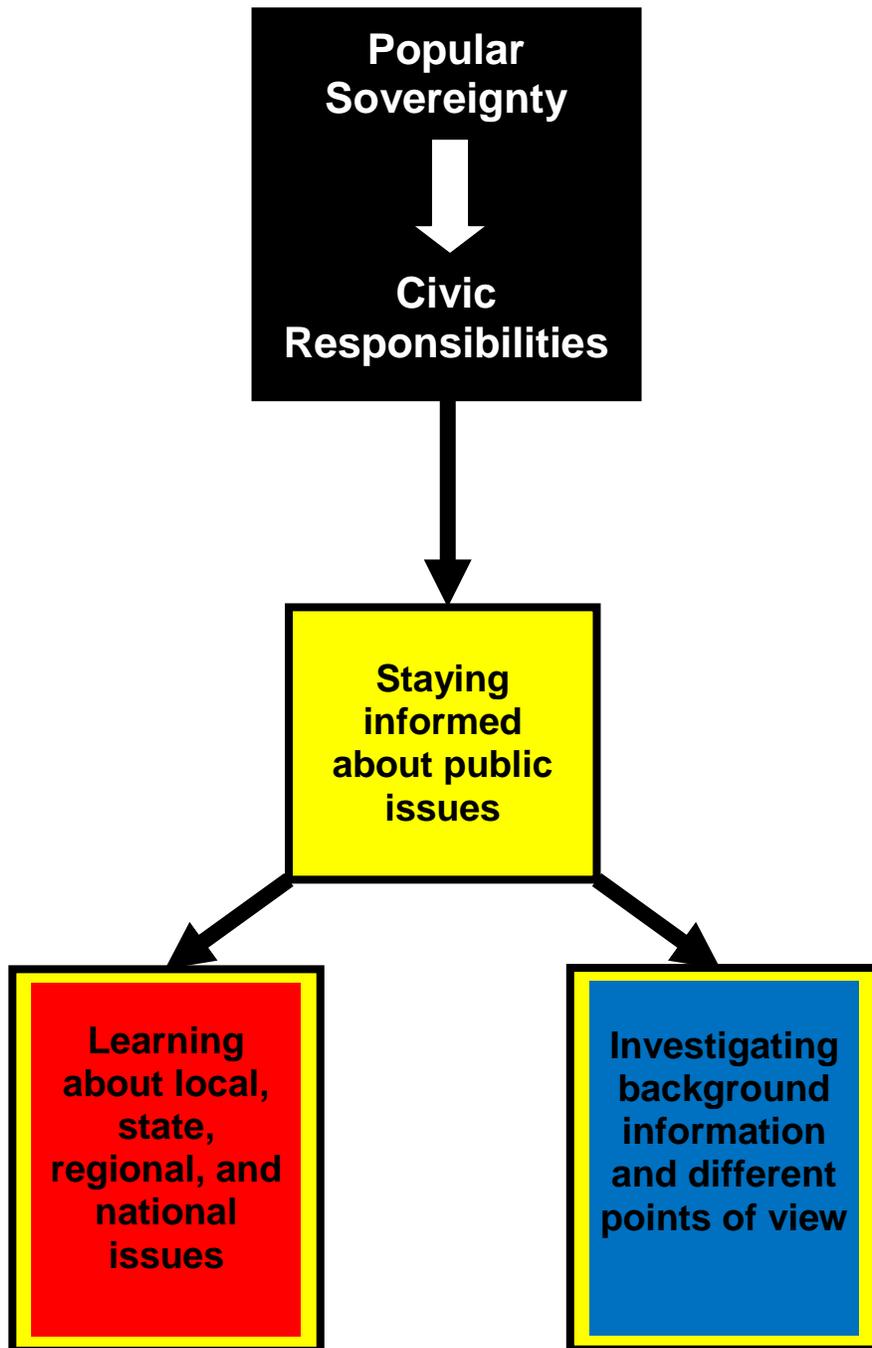
Not only that—politicians pay lots of attention to who votes and who doesn't. For example, because so many older Americans vote, politicians don't want to mess with Social Security, which is popular with older people. But young people and new U.S. citizens have not voted in high numbers in recent elections, so some politicians feel they don't have to pay too much attention to their needs. Of course, that needs to change.

Another thing: Did you notice that after the attacks of September 11, 2001, lots of Americans flew U.S. flags? They wanted to show they supported their country in a time of trouble. In a way, voting is just like flying that flag. It says, "I'm a U.S. citizen, I'm part of this country, I'm helping to make it work and make the decisions."

Besides, how many times have you heard people complain about the government, and what it's doing or not doing? Everyone has a right to complain — it's called freedom of speech. But if you didn't vote, you really can't complain, can you?

Source: "America Votes: The Big Picture" Navigating Election Day. League of Women Voters Website. 15 January 2009 <<http://www.lwv.org>>. Use search function.

### Lesson 3 Graphic Organizer



**Big Ideas of Lesson 3, Unit 6**

- Popular sovereignty, which means the people hold the power of government, is one of our most important core democratic values.
- Because people hold the power of government they have many civic responsibilities.
- One important responsibility of citizens is to stay informed about public issues.
- A public issue may affect an entire school, community, county, state, region, or country.
- People disagree on how to settle or resolve public issues.
- To learn about a public issue, citizens should investigate background information on the issue and different points of view.

**Word Cards**

**Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:**

- Popular Sovereignty – Word Card #9 from Lesson 2
- Civic Responsibilities– Word Card #14 from Lesson 2

<p><b>20</b> <b>public issue</b></p>  <p>an issue that affects many, many people</p>  <p><b>Example:</b> Public issues can affect a local community, a state, or the nation.</p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>point of view</b></p>  <p>how a person looks at a problem or an event</p> <p><b>Example:</b> People can have different points of view because their ages or backgrounds are different.</p>
--	---

## Public Issue Analysis

### What level of issue?

\_\_\_ school    \_\_\_ local community    \_\_\_ state    \_\_\_ region    \_\_\_ nation

<p><b>What is the Issue?</b></p>	
<p><b>What are some different points of view on the issue?</b></p>	

**Newspaper Article #1****Officials defend grade policy****City schools keep minimum scores**

Wednesday, January 07, 2009

By Joe Smydo, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh Public Schools administrators last night defended a controversial policy that sets 50 percent as the minimum score a student may receive for classroom work, homework or marking periods, saying it's fair and mathematically logical.

The presentation to the school board Education Committee signaled that officials may tweak the policy but don't plan to abandon it. The handful of board members who attended the meeting offered little argument.

Some students have said they'd rather take a 50 percent than do work, and some are "shutting down" academically once they're satisfied with the grades they've compiled, according to a report by Jerri Lippert, executive director of curriculum, instruction and professional development.

There's also the complaint that the policy amounts to grade inflation and gives failing students a free ride.

Last night, for the first time, administrators publicly defended the policy to the board, saying the 50 percent minimum gives struggling students a chance to recover academically and an incentive to stay in school.

Under the policy, work scored from 100 percent to 90 percent is an A, from 89 percent to 80 percent a B, from 79 percent to 70 percent a C, from 69 percent to 60 percent a D and from 59 percent to 50 percent an E, the failing grade. Work may not be scored lower than 50 percent.

Dr. Lippert called the policy mathematically sound. If the E ranged from 59 percent to zero, she said, it would carry more weight than passing grades.

Source: Pittsburg Post Gazette. 5 March 2009 <<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09007/940011-298.stm>>.

**Newspaper Article #2****Time short for about 200 deer in Rochester Hills****Oakland Co. sheriff's sharpshooters are to start culling herd next month**

Beginning in January, up to 200 deer could be killed in Rochester Hills by Oakland County Sheriff's Office sharpshooters, as the city begins reducing its deer population.

With more than 1,000 deer in the city, officials say the cull is necessary to curb vehicle-deer crashes. In 2007, 219 of those crashes occurred, a total that gave the city the highest rate of such accidents in the tri-county area.

But city officials won't release the days and locations of the culls. They say that keeping the information quiet will keep residents safe and prevent opponents from sabotaging the effort. Those against the cull, though, say that not releasing the times potentially puts residents in danger.

"We don't want anybody out there when we're doing it," said Lance DeVoe, the city's naturalist.

The only information the city and Sheriff's Office released is that the cull could happen on a few occasions in January and in February at select sites that are no less than 50 acres in size. The woods in Bloomer Park and sites off Hamlin and Avon roads might be selected, DeVoe has said.

He said the sharpshooters will be using suppressors on their rifles to muffle the sound of the shots and to prevent echoing.

"We think it's very disconcerting that the city doesn't want to tell the residents even near the sites when it's happening, where it's happening," said Don Hughes, an Auburn Hills resident who's a member of Residents for Safe Deer Management, a group that has actively protested the cull.

"We think it's very dangerous to have people out discharging firearms in the city."

Many of the deer-car collisions happen on roads around Oakland University. A large deer population lives in the wooded areas on campus. Mayor Bryan Barnett said he's approached university administrators about the deer problem, but he "hadn't gotten any indications from them that they're going to be on board" with participating in the cull.

Oakland University Police Chief Samuel Lucido said vehicle-deer accidents on campus are rare, partly because of the low speed limits.

Monique Balaban, a Rochester Hills resident who opposes the culling, doesn't believe it will be effective.

She proposed to the City Council that, among other things, the city install deer-detering reflectors along roads and then postpone the cull for more than a year to measure the effectiveness of the reflectors.

"This isn't right, what they're doing," Balaban said. "They're not taking care of the residents' safety."

Source: Detroit Free Press. 5 March 2009

<<http://www.freep.com/article/20081231/NEWS03/812310386/1005/NEWS>>.

**Newspaper Article #3****Michigan House reignites smoking ban debate**

by The Associated Press  
Tuesday September 23, 2008,

LANSING -- The Michigan House is preparing for another vote on legislation to ban smoking in Michigan workplaces, including bars and restaurants.

But it isn't immediately clear Tuesday afternoon if the expected vote will break a stalemate over what should be covered in the legislation.

The Democrat-led chamber has supported legislation that carves out exemptions to the smoking ban for casinos, smoke shops and some other businesses. The Republican-led Senate has passed legislation to ban smoking at all workplaces.

Without a compromise, there will not be a change in Michigan law that now lets restaurants and bars set their own smoking rules.

The House is considering possible amendments to the legislation Tuesday.

Source: *Michigan House Reignites Smoking Ban Debate*. Michigan News. 5 March 2009  
<[http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/09/michigan\\_house\\_reignites\\_smoki.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/09/michigan_house_reignites_smoki.html)>.

**Newspaper Article #4****Gas Prices Pump Up Support for Drilling****Support for Conservation and Environmental Protection Declines,  
More Favor Drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

July 1, 2008

Amid record gas prices, public support for greater energy exploration is spiking. Compared with just a few months ago, many more Americans are giving higher priority to more energy exploration, rather than more conservation. An increasing proportion also says that developing new sources of energy -- rather than protecting the environment -- is the more important national priority.

The latest nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted June 18-29 among 2,004 adults, also finds that half of Americans now support drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, up from 42% in February.

The public's changing energy priorities are most evident in the growing percentage that views increased energy exploration -- including mining and drilling, as well as the construction of new power plants -- as a more important priority for energy policy than increased conservation and regulation. Nearly half (47%) now rates energy exploration as the more important priority, up from 35% in February. The proportion saying it is more important to increase energy conservation and regulation has declined by 10 points (from 55% to 45%).

In surveys dating to 2001, majorities or pluralities had consistently said that greater energy conservation and regulation on energy use and prices was more important than increased energy exploration.

Source: *Gas Prices Pump Up Support*. Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. 5 March 2009  
<<http://pewresearch.org/>>.

## **PUBLIC AGENDA**

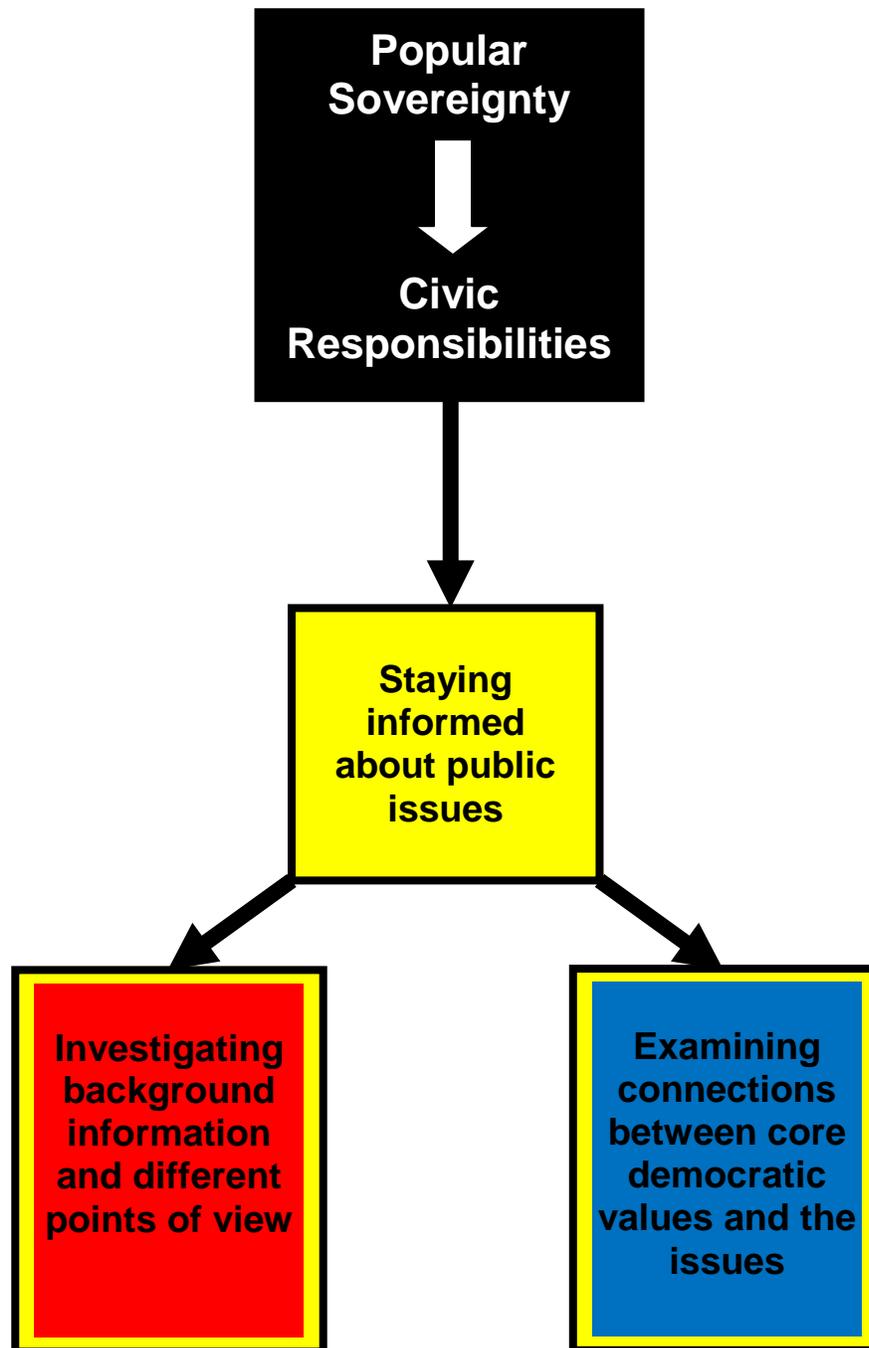
**[HTTP://WWW.PUBLICAGENDA.ORG](http://www.PublicAgenda.org)**

### **WHO WE ARE**

For over 30 years, Public Agenda has been providing unbiased and unparalleled research that bridges the gap between American leaders and what the public really thinks about issues ranging from education to foreign policy to immigration to religion and civility in American life. Nonpartisan and nonprofit, Public Agenda was founded by social scientist and author Daniel Yankelovich and former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in 1975. Public Agenda's two-fold mission is to help:

- American leaders better understand the public's point of view.
- Citizens know more about critical policy issues so they can make thoughtful, informed decisions.

## Lesson 4 Graphic Organizer



**Big Ideas of Lesson 4, Unit 6**

- People disagree about how to resolve public issues.
- To understand these disagreements it is important to examine connections between core democratic values and the issues.
- Core democratic values often in conflict include the common good, equality, justice and freedom.

**Word Cards**

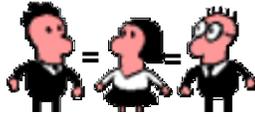
**Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:**

- Public Issue – Word Card #20 from Lesson 3
- Common Good – Word Card #10 from Lesson 2
- Justice – Word Card #12 from Lesson 2

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>22</b> <b>core democratic values</b></p>  <p>ideals and beliefs that people in America have in common and upon which our country is based</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Freedom and fairness are examples of core democratic values.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(SS040604)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>23</b> <b>liberty</b></p>  <p>another word for freedom</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Liberty, or freedom, means you have the right to make choices and have your own ideas.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(SS040604)</p>
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**24  
equality**

equal treatment  
and equal protection

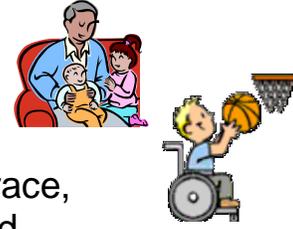


**Example:** Equality means everyone in the class should have a chance to talk in a discussion.

(SS040604)

**25  
diversity**

differences in  
things such as race,  
culture, age, and  
abilities



**Example:** As Americans we value and respect diversity.

(SS040604)

**26  
informed decision**

a decision that is based on  
information not just feelings



**Example:** To make an informed decision you have to think carefully about a problem.

(SS040604)

## Some Important Core Democratic Values

<b>Liberty/Freedom</b>	
<b>Justice</b>	
<b>The Common Good</b>	
<b>Equality</b>	
<b>Diversity</b>	

**Newspaper Article #1****Michigan House reignites smoking ban debate**

by The Associated Press  
Tuesday September 23, 2008

LANSING -- The Michigan House is preparing for another vote on legislation to ban smoking in Michigan workplaces, including bars and restaurants.

But it isn't immediately clear Tuesday afternoon if the expected vote will break a stalemate over what should be covered in the legislation.

The Democrat-led chamber has supported legislation that carves out exemptions to the smoking ban for casinos, smoke shops and some other businesses. The Republican-led Senate has passed legislation to ban smoking at all workplaces.

Without a compromise, there will not be a change in Michigan law that now lets restaurants and bars set their own smoking rules.

The House is considering possible amendments to the legislation Tuesday.

Source: *Michigan House Reignites Smoking Ban Debate*. Michigan News. 5 March 2009  
<[http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/09/michigan\\_house\\_reignites\\_smoki.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/09/michigan_house_reignites_smoki.html)>.

## Examining Different Positions on an Issue

**Issue:** Should Smoking be banned in all workplaces?

Position on the Issue	Core Democratic Value(s)
<p>It takes away people's choice. People have a choice of what they watch on TV, why shouldn't they have a choice of where they can go to smoke?</p>	
<p>It will help protect workers and families from harmful secondhand smoke and reduce long-term health care costs to the state and to businesses.</p>	
<p>People should not be exposed to secondhand smoke in the places where they work. They can't afford to quit their jobs so why should they have to endanger their lives just because of a smoker's bad habits.</p>	
<p>Patrons of my bar know what they are dealing with when they come in here. People come in here because they choose to come in here. The people that don't smoke, if they don't want to come in and they don't like to smoke, they don't come in – and that's their choice and they had a choice. Now, smokers don't have a choice. Smokers are being treated unfairly. They are being treated differently than non-smokers.</p>	

Adapted from: *Senate Okays Smoking Ban*. Michigan News. 5 March 2009  
 <[http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/senate\\_oks\\_smoking\\_ban\\_reactio.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/senate_oks_smoking_ban_reactio.html)>.

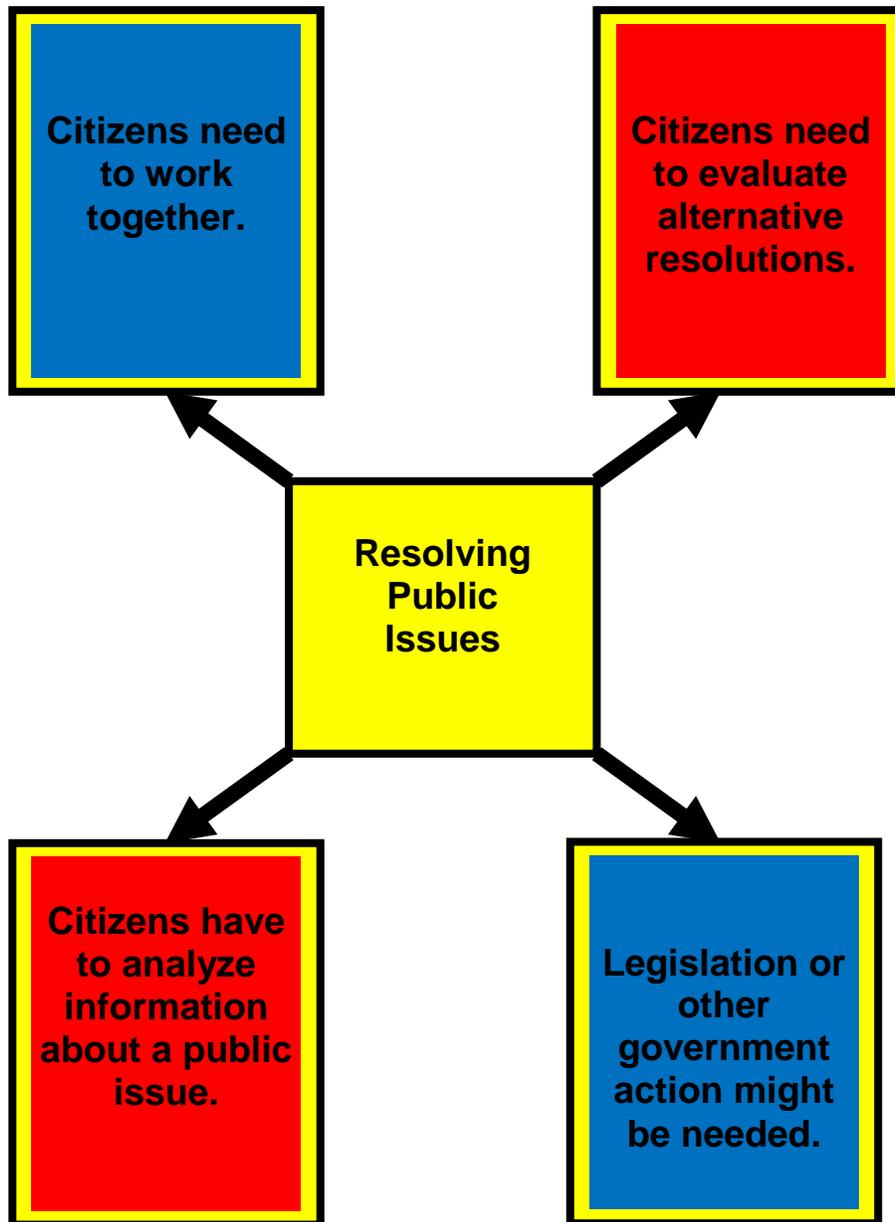
## Looking at Both Sides of an Issue

**Issue:** Should water be diverted from the Great Lakes to dry places in other parts of the United States that need water?

**Directions:** Describe a position on each side of this issue using a core democratic value.

YES	NO

## Lesson 5 Graphic Organizer



**Big Ideas of Lesson 5, Unit 6**

- Citizens have to work together to resolve public issues.
- Often there are alternative resolutions to public issues.
- Citizens have to analyze data and other sources of information in order to evaluate alternative resolutions.
- Often the resolution of a public issue requires legislation or other governmental action.

**Word Cards****Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:**

- Public Issue – Word Card #20 from Lesson 3
- Informed Decision – Word Card #26 from Lesson 4

## What is the Issue?

Effective - January 29, 2009

**Name of Product:** Construction Play Sets

**Units:** About 3,000

**Manufacturer/Distributor:** DDI Inc., of Dubuque, Iowa

**Hazard:** Surface paint on the recalled play sets can contain lead, violating the federal lead paint standard.

**Description:** This lead recall involves the 136-piece Mega Construction Play Set (item# 911346) and includes various construction equipment, vehicles, buildings and roads. The play sets are packaged in a black and yellow box with the word "Builder" printed in the upper left hand corner of the package.

**Sold at:** Home centers, hardware stores and farm stores nationwide from October 2008 through December 2008 for about \$20.

**Manufactured in:** China

Effective - January 27, 2009

**Name of Product:** High School Musical Manicure Kits

**Units:** About 15,000

**Importer:** Fantas-Eyes Inc., of New York, N.Y.

**Hazard:** The lettering "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL" with glitter on the pouch used with the manicure kit contains excess levels of lead. Lead can be toxic if ingested by young children and cause adverse health effects.

**Description:** This lead recall involves the pouch that contains the "High School Musical" manicure kit. The 7-1/2 inch by 4-3/4 inch plastic see-through pouch has a pink zipper with "High School Musical" printed in yellow gold with glitter and "Sharpay" printed in dark red on one side.

**Sold by:** LTD Commodities and ABC distributing catalogs and Web Sites and on [www.lakeside.com](http://www.lakeside.com) from September 2008 to November 2008 for about \$11.

**Manufactured in:** China

*Lead toy Recalls. 5 March 2009 <<http://www.leadtoyrecalls.com/>>.*

## Gathering Data

<b>Toy</b>	<b>Importer</b>	<b>Place of Manufacture</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Other information</b>

## Newspaper Article #1

SHANGHAI, Sept. 7, 2007 — When Mattel, the world's largest toy maker, announced its third recall in six weeks this month, the company asked consumers to return toys because they contained dangerously high levels of lead paint.

Toxic paint also turned up in several other products Mattel recalled in recent weeks, and in about 16 other recalls this year, including the popular Thomas & Friends train sets, according to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

All the products were made in China.

Why is lead paint — or lead, for that matter — turning up in so many recalls involving Chinese-made goods?

The simplest answer, experts and toy companies in China say, is price. Paint with higher levels of lead often sells for a third of the cost of paint with low levels. So Chinese factory owners, trying to eke out profits in an intensely competitive and poorly regulated market, sometimes cut corners and use the cheaper leaded paint.

On the books, China's paint standards are stricter than those in the United States, requiring that paint intended for household or consumer-product use contain no more than 90 parts of lead per million. By comparison, American regulations allow up to 600 parts per million.

The regulations are supposed to safeguard health, particularly in cases involving children, where ingesting excessive amounts of lead has been linked to disorders including mental retardation and behavioral problems.

But enforcement of the regulations in China is lax.

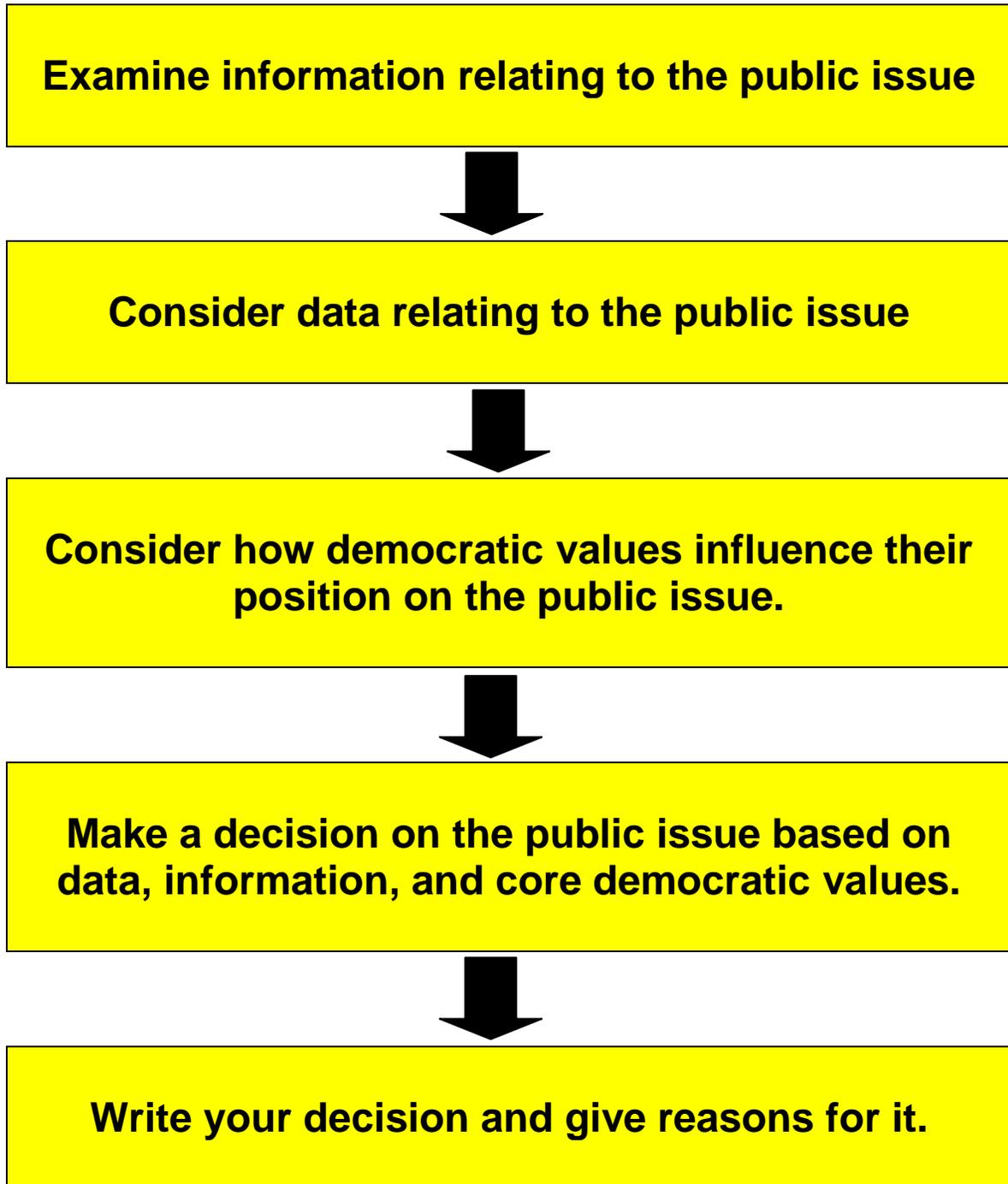
*Lead in Toys.* New York Times. 5 March 2009

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/11/business/worldbusiness/11lead.html>>.

## What can be done about the problem of lead paint in toys? Evaluating Solutions

Solution	Strengths	Weaknesses

## Lesson 6 Graphic Organizer



**Big Ideas of Lesson 6, Unit 6**

- It is important for citizens to make informed decisions about public issues.
- To make an informed decision, citizens should examine different resolutions of the issue.
- To make an informed decision, citizens should explore data and other sources of information relating to the issue.
- To make an informed decision, citizens should also consider how core democratic values influence their position on the issue.
- Finally, citizens should make a persuasive and reasoned argument to support their position on a public issue.

**Word Cards****Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:**

- Public Issue – Word Card #20 from Lesson 3
- Core Democratic Values – Word Card #22 from Lesson 4
- Informed Decision – Word Card #26 from Lesson 4

## **Information on the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Law**

### **"Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act Signed Into Law"**

September 2, 2008

by Josh Johanningmeier and Adam C. Briggs

Last month, President George W. Bush signed into law the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 ("CPSIA"), the most sweeping consumer product safety law enacted in the United States in over 30 years. Passed by strong majorities in both the House and the Senate, CPSIA significantly expands government monitoring and enforcement authority at the federal and state levels and imposes many new product safety restrictions on businesses. While many of the key provisions will not become effective for several months, it is not too soon to identify the many ways in which the new law will affect consumer product manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers.

### **Stronger Government Enforcement and Stiffer Penalties**

The strongest indication that Congress intends CPSIA to be an unprecedented expansion of product safety enforcement activity is the new law's drastic increase in Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC") funding. Under the CPSIA, CPSC funding is expected to more than double in the next six years, allowing the CPSC to add more employees and increase enforcement activity. The CPSIA also expands independent, state-level enforcement activity. State Attorneys General have new authority under CPSIA to initiate legal actions in federal courts relating to product safety. The CPSIA will also bring much stiffer penalties for violations of both pre-existing and new requirements. Civil penalties, for example, are to be increased over tenfold, to \$100,000 per violation, and the overall cap on penalties will increase to \$15 million.

### **New Restrictions on Children's Products**

CPSIA focuses heavily on products for or related to children and imposes an array of new requirements on businesses dealing in these products.

### Lead Restrictions

CPSIA mandates that lead content in children's products and toys be reduced to:

- No more than 600 parts per million by February 10, 2009;
- No more than 300 parts per million by August 14, 2009; and
- No more than 100 parts per million by August 14, 2011.

### Rules and Testing Requirements

New testing requirements will soon become operative after the CPSC issues new accreditation and testing standards for certain product categories. Manufacturers must now certify, upon completion of accredited, third-party testing, that all their products comply with all product safety requirements. New requirements for lead paint can be expected by September 13, 2008, for cribs and pacifiers by October 13, 2008, for small parts by November 12, 2008, for children's metal jewelry by December 12, 2008, for baby bouncers, walkers, and jumpers by March 13, 2009, and for all other children's products by June 14, 2009.

### New Import/Export Rules

The new law's import/export provisions include self-certification requirements on businesses importing consumer products subject to any CPSC rule, ban, standard, or regulation, as well as increased cooperation between CPSC and U.S. Customs. Exports of recalled, non-conforming, and/or banned products are also prohibited under CPSIA.

## **Conclusion**

CPSIA is the most far-reaching consumer protection law enacted in decades. By expanding both federal and state government enforcement power, imposing new restrictions on manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers, and increasing penalties, CPSIA has created a long list of new obligations and risks for any business involved in the sale of consumer products.

**Adapted from: "Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act Signed Into Law". 9 March 2009**  
<[http://www.gklaw.com/publication.cfm?publication\\_id=750](http://www.gklaw.com/publication.cfm?publication_id=750)>.

## Newspaper Article

# Handcrafted toy makers fear new lead paint law

Marcus Wohlsen ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Thursday, December 25, 2008

SAN FRANCISCO | Worries over lead paint in mass-market toys made the holidays a little brighter for handcrafted toy makers last year, but now the federal government's response to the scare has some workshops fearful that this Christmas might be their last.

Without changes to strict new safety rules, they say, mom-and-pop toy makers and retailers could be forced to conduct testing and labeling they can't afford, even if they use materials as safe as unfinished wood, organic cotton and beeswax.

"It's ironic that the companies who never violated the public trust, who have already operated with integrity, are the ones being threatened," said Julia Chen, owner of the Playstore in Palo Alto, which specializes in wooden and organic playthings.

Lead paint spurred the recall of 45 million toys last year, mostly made in China for larger manufacturers. Parents flocked to stores like the Playstore in the recall's aftermath searching for safer alternatives.

Lawmakers also responded. In August, President Bush imposed the world's strictest lead ban in products for children 12 or younger by signing the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act.

Small toy makers strongly back the restrictions in the bill, which they say reflect voluntary standards they have long observed to keep harmful substances out of toys. But they never thought their products would also be considered a threat.

Under the law, all children's products must be tested for lead and other harmful substances. Toy makers are required to pay a third-party lab for the testing and to put tracking labels on all toys to show when and where they were made.

Those requirements make sense for a multinational toy manufacturer churning out thousands of plastic toys on an overseas assembly line, said Dan Marshall, co-owner of Peapods Natural Toys and Baby Care in St. Paul, Minn.

But a business that makes, for example, a few hundred handcrafted wooden baby rattles each year cannot afford to pay up to \$4,000 per product for testing, a price some toy makers have been quoted, he said.

Mr. Marshall and nearly 100 other toy stores and makers have formed the Handmade Toy Alliance to ask Congress and the federal agency that enforces the law to exempt small toy companies or those that make toys entirely within the U.S. from testing and labeling rules.

Adapted from: "Handcrafted Toy Makers Fear New Lead Paint Law". 9 March 2009  
<<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/dec/25/handcrafted-toy-makers-fear-new-lead-paint-law/>>.

## Writing Plan

**The Issue:** Should small toy companies within the U.S. be exempt from the testing and labeling rules of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act?

My decision:    yes                    no

My reference to data:

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My connection to a core democratic value:

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My reasons:

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## Essay Review

Check off the parts that you found in the essay:

- A position statement
- At least two reasons
- A reference to data
- A core democratic value connection
- A concluding sentence

My favorite part of your essay was:

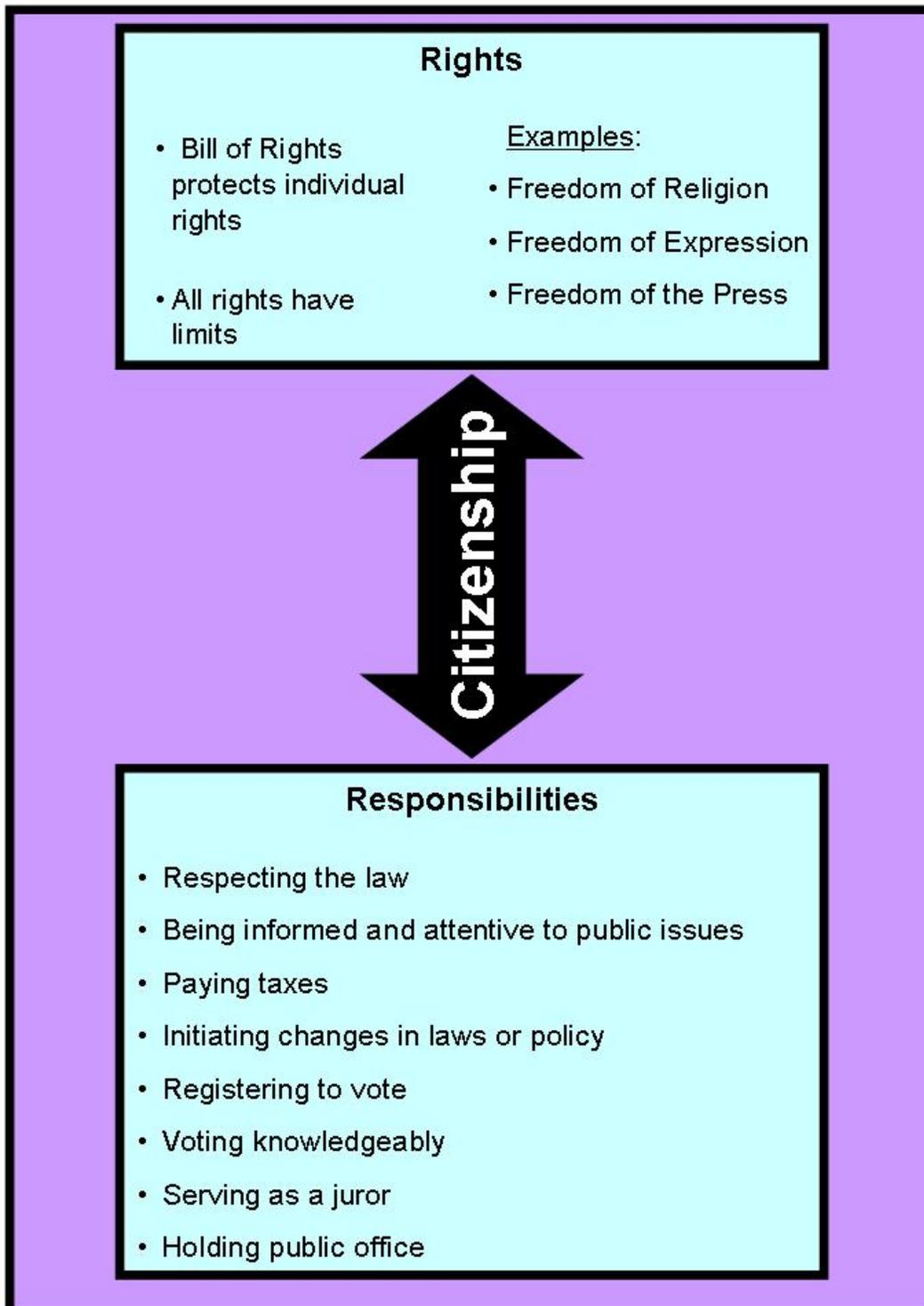
A question I have about your essay is:

Something I might change in your essay is:

I liked your essay because:

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

# Unit 6 Graphic Organizer



## Unit 6 Vocabulary Words

Bill of Rights .....	4
civic responsibilities .....	23
common good .....	22
core democratic values .....	38
diversity .....	39
equality .....	39
freedom of assembly .....	4
freedom of expression .....	4
freedom of petition .....	5
freedom of religion .....	5
freedom of speech .....	4
freedom of the press .....	4
individual rights .....	4
informed decision .....	39
jury .....	23
justice .....	23
liberty .....	38
point of view .....	30
popular sovereignty .....	22
public goods and services .....	23
public issue .....	30

representative government ..... 23

republic ..... 24

rule of law ..... 23

taxes..... 24

voting ..... 24