

## Elements of Democracy

### Rule of Law

In a democracy, everyone must follow the same laws (including leaders). Laws should be known, predictable, and impartial. Even the government is subject to the law.

### Political Equality

In a democracy, every citizen has the same right to vote and run for office and to speak on public issues.

### Common Good

Democratic citizens should work toward the common good (what will make the most people safe, secure, and happy). They should have a sense of responsibility and caring for others.

### Personal Freedoms

In a democracy, people enjoy many personal freedoms such as freedom of religion and freedom of expression.

# Democracy

### Human Dignity

Democratic citizens should protect and uphold the dignity of all people.

### Political Freedoms

In a democracy, people can speak freely, form associations, run for office, and vote without being intimidated.

### Being Informed and Getting Involved

Democratic citizens should communicate openly and participate individually and collectively in issues that shape their community, country, and world.

### Respect

Democratic citizens should respect the rights of others.

## Let's Discuss

Using newspapers or the "news," look for current events that reflect different elements of democracy in action in your community or province. Look for examples that demonstrate undemocratic actions or behaviour in your community. How can we protect the elements of democracy listed in the chart on the left?

## Literacy Strategy

The diagram helps organize the main ideas and supporting details. Reread the diagram, and make notes in your own words to ensure you understand the content. Highlight the main ideas.

## Web Links

### Ideas on Democracy

Go to [www.nelson.com/civicsnow](http://www.nelson.com/civicsnow) for some different views and ideas on democracy.