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with reflection questions and e-resources

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Section: Critical Democratic Values

Reflection Questions:

1. How do you define democracy? Do any of the quotes from the first section align with your definition?
2. Identify a quote that you find interesting and research its author online. In what ways do you think their background has contributed to the way in which they understand or define democracy?
3. Did any of the quotations surprise you? In what ways?

Additional Resources:

[Democracy – A Short Introduction by MinuteVideos](#) – a brief video on the origins of democracy

[Is democracy really the best form of government? | Steven Pinker](#) – a brief video exploring the attributes of democracy and democracy in practice.

Section: The Right to Vote

Reflection Questions

1. Some of the individuals quoted in this section viewed the right to vote in a way that excluded many people. How should we understand their words in the 21st century?
2. Have you exercised the right to vote? Why or why not? What does your choice to vote tell you about yourself? If you are not eligible to vote, how does that make you feel?
3. J. William Fulbright said “In a democracy dissent is an act of faith. Like medicine, the test of its value is not in its taste, but in its effects.” Why do you think this quotation is in the “Right to Vote” section?

Additional Resources:

[State Student Guides – Campus Vote Project](#)

Section: Civic Duty

Reflection Questions

1. What civic duties do you participate in?
2. Select two individuals quoted in this section who live(d) in different periods of time. How do you think the era in which they live(d) influenced their opinion? Can you identify any ways in which they have the same mission or message?
3. Brainstorm a list of civic duties. Should these be requirements for all citizens, or should citizens be able to choose whether or not to participate?

Additional Resources:

[Definitions of Civic Responsibility](#) – on Learning to

Section: Collective Responsibility

Reflection Questions

1. The quotes in this section suggest that democracy is a collective pursuit. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this? Are there any ways in which democracy is an individual action?
2. Write a one paragraph speech that incorporates one of these quotes.
3. Democracy centers around collective action, but it can be difficult to get people to work together toward a common goal. What is one way that you could try to motivate your friends, family, or classmates to work together around issues concerning the public good?

Additional Resources:

[All In Campus Democracy Challenge](#) – guides for developing action plans for strengthening democracy and increasing participation.

Section: Equality

Reflection Questions

1. Choose a quotation from a historic figure from this section. Does the heart of their quotation still ring true today? In what ways have things changed?
2. Choose one quotation and, pretending you are going to debate its author, how would you build an argument against them?
3. Vandana Shiva said “Democracy begins with freedom from hunger, freedom from unemployment, freedom from fear, and freedom from hatred...” Do you agree? Would you add anything to or remove anything from this list?

Additional Resources:

[“Let America be America Again” Poem by Langston Hughes](#)

Section: Active Citizenship & Voting

Reflection Questions

1. What does it mean to you to be an active citizen?
2. Tsai Ing-wen said “Democracy is not just an election, it is our daily life.” How do you experience democracy in daily life?
3. If you are planning to vote in an upcoming election, why are you voting ? If not, do you feel any differently after reading any of these quotations? How might you use one of these quotes to urge your peers to vote?

Additional Resources:

[“Why I Vote” Video Playlist by Vevo](#) on YouTube. Features musical artists sharing the reasons they vote and encouraging participation.

If you enjoyed using this quotes book and guide, please share it with your colleagues, students, and anyone who could use a dose of civic motivation!

Democracy, Voting & Civic Duty
is available to all at
www.publicperformance.org/democracy

We welcome your feedback at
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