
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

SECONDARY LEVEL

Where Our Rights Come From Activity

- **Purpose:**the purpose of this activity is to take a more in-depth look at human rights, learn why human rights exist and learn why they are necessary for quality of life.
- **Instructional method(s):**class discussion
- **Differentiated instruction:**
 - Students will discuss questions in small groups instead of as a whole class.
- **Estimated time:**10 minutes
- **Steps:**
 1. Write the words "HUMAN" and "RIGHTS" at the top of chart paper.
 2. Below the word "HUMAN" draw a circle.
 3. Ask students to brainstorm what personal qualities make us human and write the words inside the outline (e.g.: intelligence, sympathy, etc.).
 4. Next, ask students what they think is needed in order to protect, enhance and develop these qualities. List answers outside the circle, and ask participants to explain them (e.g.: education, friendship, a loving family, etc.).
 5. Encourage a class discussion using the following suggested questions:
 - Based on this list, what do people need to lead a good life?
 - Can any of the qualities listed inside the circle be taken from us? (e.g.: our freedom of speech)
 - What would happen if you had to give up any of the necessities listed outside of the circle?
 6. Explain to students that the qualities listed inside the circle are those that define a human and relate to human dignity. Everything written around the outside of the circle represents what is necessary to ensure that people have that dignity. Human rights are based on these necessities.
 7. Activate students' prior knowledge and ask them to list the rights they have as humans. List answers under the title "RIGHTS".
 8. Encourage a class discussion using the following suggested questions:
 - How do individuals honour these rights?
 - How do world leaders honour these rights?

Teacher Note: Lead discussion towards the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Stand up for children's rights by taking the Vow of Silence. Learn more about this empowering campaign at www.weday.com/takeaction.