

Activity 1: Creating My Ideal Democracy

Content adapted from [The Samara Centre for Democracy](#) and the Democracy Talks program housed at the [Democratic Engagement Exchange](#). For additional tools and free training opportunities to support democratic engagement and non-partisan voter turnout visit the Democratic Engagement Exchange at Ryerson University.

OBJECTIVES

Participants will:

- Understand different principles of a strong and healthy democracy
- Build their own definition of democracy

AUDIENCE

- Age: Young adults (including High School students) or adult learners
- Political knowledge: some prior political knowledge helpful but not necessary
- Language: Basic-intermediate English
- Group size: 6 participants or more (can also be done in pairs)

MATERIALS

- Markers and pens
- Flipchart paper
- Miscellaneous materials for creative play (this can include objects from nature such as stones, twigs, bark, etc., or store-bought materials including pipe cleaners, glitter, popsicle sticks, construction paper, etc.)

INSTRUCTIONS

Form small groups of at least two people each (ideally each group should have four to six people each, but the activity can be done in pairs). Each



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➔ Step 1

table should have materials for creative play, and enough copies of the **“Principles of Democracy” worksheet** for all participants.

From the **“Principles of Democracy” worksheet**, individual participants should choose the four principles that they believe are most important for a strong and healthy democracy. If there is a principle not listed that participants think is important, they can add it! Individuals should share their choices with their partner or other groups members, and explain their choices.

➔ Step 2

In pairs or small groups, participants should combine their individual choices into four choices per pair or group. Write these four principles on the list.

➔ Step 3

Each pair or group should use the materials provided to build something that represents their ideal democracy based on their four group principles. It can be a structure, machine, landscape, animal, imaginary creature or anything they like!

➔ Step 4

Each pair or group will share their creation with the other groups, and explain how it represents their ideal democracy. Take a photo of your creation and share it with your friends.

