

Activity 2: Understanding Democratic Participation

OBJECTIVES

Participants will:

- Understand different principles of democratic participation
- Build their own “picture” of democratic participation

AUDIENCE

- Age: Young adult learners (including High School students) or adult learners
- Political knowledge: some prior political knowledge helpful but not necessary
- Language: Intermediate English
- Group size: Pairs or small groups of three or more

RESOURCES

- [Simon Fraser University’s Strengthening Canadian Democracy Project](#)
- [Canadian Index of Wellbeing \(CIW\) Definition of Democratic Engagement](#)
- [City of Vancouver’s Engaged City Task Force Final Report](#)

MATERIALS

- Markers and pens
- Flipchart paper
- Printed copies of the worksheet

INSTRUCTIONS



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Step 1

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). From the “**Definitions of democratic engagement**” worksheet, participants should individually read and reflect on the three definitions of democratic participation provided. NOTE: Sometimes “democratic participation” is called “democratic engagement”



Step 2

Each pair or group should choose three key elements that they believe are most important for a strong and healthy democracy. AS A GROUP, write these three key elements on flipchart paper, then make a drawing that represents the three elements that you and your partner, or your group chose, and how they connect together. Be as creative as you’d like!



Step 3

Share your creation with the whole group, and explain what it means. Tell your story of democratic participation! Take a photo of your drawing and share it with your friends.

