

Rule of Law: Principle that every member of a society, even a ruler, must follow the law. The law, not humans, is the ultimate and objective arbiter of justice.

Goal:

To help students understand that law is a tool that provides for the protection of our individual rights and at the same time makes it possible for groups to live together.

Discussion:

What is law?

What are its functions?

How does it work?

What are its limitations?

Define Criminal Law and Civil Law

Brainstorm:

Ways laws influence you around the clock

- the time you get up depends on time school starts-laws where you attend school, foods you eat have been inspected, medicines approved, traffic safety rules, building conforms to safety codes, pajamas children sleep in are nonflammable by law.

(Teacher's can do an in-class activity asking students to bring news clippings, magazine articles etc. that pertain to legal matters. This helps generate interesting and engaging discussion. An art project can also be developed around rules, laws and the important role they play in our country or showing the consequences of no laws or the abandonment of the rule of law.)

Class Discussion:

Imagine life with NO LAWS!

What kinds of things might happen?

What conflicts might arise?

Probe Deeper:

Where would buildings be built?

Would there be schools?

How would you know if your dentist knew his business?

How would we handle money?