

University of Virginia Center for Politics



**Democracy Corps Lesson Plan 16:
Deliberation: Reflect on the Democratic Process**

Purpose:

This deliberation serves as the culminating activity for YLI Democracy Corps service learning program. The goal for this final discussion is for students to evaluate our system of government and to explore the value of involvement in the political process.

Materials:

- Student Guide 1: *Reflect on the Democratic Process*
- Teacher Rubric: *Deliberation Rubric*

Central Questions:

- What did you learn about our system of government?
- Based on your experiences, do you think democracy is an effective form of government?
- What is a responsible citizen?
- Are you prepared to be involved in the political process?

Procedure:

1. Warm Up - Distribute Student Guide 1: *Reflecting on the Democratic Process*.
Ask students to complete the opening question, answer at least five of the core questions and then respond to the closing question. The guide can be completed at the beginning of class or as homework the night before the deliberation.
2. Deliberate -
 - Ask for a volunteer to begin by expressing his/her ideas on the opening question.
 - Follow deliberation guidelines established for Democracy Corps and allow students to freely discuss any of the core questions as well as additional questions they may have.
 - Guide students to the closing question when appropriate and request their feedback.
3. Post-Deliberation - Assess individual and group participation in the seminar discussion. Teachers can choose to give formal feedback with the rubric provided or give informal feedback at the end of the discussion.



Reflecting on the Democratic Process

Step One

Webster's formal definition for deliberation is "to consult with another or others in a process of reaching a decision."

This form of decision-making is at the heart of our democratic process and therefore we will close the Democracy Corps project with a healthy and lively discussion. (Review deliberation guidelines if necessary.)

Deliberation Questions

Please answer the opening question, five core questions of your choice and the closing question.

Opening Question

- What new information did you learn about our democratic form of government?

Core Questions

- What is the most effective part of our democratic government?
- Can you identify a weakness in our democratic form of government?
- What would you change about the political process and why?
- How would you define a responsible citizen?
- Would you advise your peers to get involved in government? Why or why not?
- When would you advise a peer NOT to be involved in government?
- When is the best time to be involved in government?

Closing Question

- What does a democracy demand of its citizens and how do those demands apply to you?

Rubric for Class Deliberation

Student Name _____

Criteria	15 Points	10 Points	5 Points	Score
Student is prepared	Student has a copy of questions and is prepared with comments.	Student has a copy of the questions, but is not prepared with responses.	Student does not have a copy of the material and is not prepared to participate.	
Student is engaged in discussion	Student listens attentively to his/her peers, responds to their comments, asks questions and shares original ideas throughout the discussion.	Student listens most of the time and offers original ideas during the discussion.	Student rarely participates in the discussion.	
Student respects his/her peers	Student does not monopolize conversation, interrupt or offer negative remarks about peers' opinions.	Student is considerate most of the time, but may monopolize the conversation or interrupt periodically.	Student is disrespectful of peers and critical of opinions that differ from his/her own.	
Student shows mastery of the information	Student supports his/her ideas from direct experience, references the text when appropriate and makes unique connections between ideas shared by his/her peers.	Student expresses ideas but does not connect them to experiences, the text or the discussion.	Student is unfamiliar with the text or discussion questions.	
Comments				Total: