

CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY

AGREEMENT CIRCLE

Students will determine whether they agree or disagree with the following statements relating to the US government and then work as a group to defend their position.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Have students form a large circle. Read each statement to the class and give students 5-10 minutes to determine whether they agree or disagree. Ask students to move to the center of the Agreement Circle if they agree with the statement and stay in their place along the edge if they disagree. Arrange likeminded students into groups of five and have them form an argument in defense of their positions. Each group will then have 1-2 minutes to present their defense to the class. Ask students if the group defenses have persuaded them to change their position on the statement and have them move to reflect their shift in opinion.

STATEMENTS:

- 1. The makeup of the Senate (with 2 senators per state) is necessary and fair.
- 2. Members of Congress should have term limits.
- 3. As one of the smallest states, Delaware has an outsized influence on the national government.
- 4. Despite its size, Delaware is a good representation of the country as a whole.
- 5. Members of the Supreme Court should be elected.
- 6. Supreme Court justices should have term limits.
- 7. Judicial activism gives the Supreme Court too much power.
- 8. The Fourteenth Amendment is the most important amendment to the Constitution.
- 9. Campaign donations, despite their size, are and should be protected by the First Amendment.
- 10. The electoral college is unfair.
- 11. Addressing climate change is the most important issue facing the United States.
- 12. The United States should be less involved in international issues.
- 13. States should have more autonomy.
- 14. Overall, elected politicians respond appropriately to the will of the American people.
- 15. Voting should be made mandatory for Americans.

