



Deliberative Democracy: Lesson Plan

Topic	
<p>Deliberative democracy is a theoretical model for a kind of government that emphasizes equal political participation in a public forum. The goal of this information sharing is to allow political representatives to reach decisions in a way that better reflects the desires of the people. One way this model has been implemented is through mini publics.</p>	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and Politics • History • Social Studies 	40-45 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/topic/deliberative-democracy-reconnecting-people-and-politicians/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define deliberative democracy. • Provide concrete examples of deliberative democracy. • Identify the parts of a deliberative process. 	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
Representative Democracy, Participatory Democracy, Liberal Democracy	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet, chart paper, markers, pens, computers	
Before you watch	
<p>Quick write: What are some of the most important aspects of democracy? Do you know of any different types of democracies? What does the word "deliberation" mean to you?</p>	

While you watch

1. What did early scholars of deliberative democracy look to for inspiration?
2. What is one of the concerns that people have with this model?
3. Name one political area where this approach has proved helpful.

After you watch/discussion questions

1. How is deliberative democracy different from other models of democracy?
2. What might be some challenges faced by deliberative democracy?
3. Is a “mini-public” adequate representation of deliberative democracy?

Activity Ideas

- Using the resources listed below, have students choose one area where deliberative democracy has been used and present on it to the class.
- Design a Venn diagram chart, with two or three circles that draw a comparison between deliberative democracy and other models that the class has studied. Students could design these individually or in small groups.
- Have students pair up and complete the Worksheet.
- Allow the class to hold its own “mini-public” on a chosen issue.

Sources/places to learn more

1. Florida, Antonio. “The Origins of the Deliberative Turn.” *The Oxford Handbook of Deliberative Democracy*, by Antonio Florida, edited by Andre Bächtiger et al., Oxford University Press, 2018, pp. 34–54. DOI.org (Crossref), doi:[10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198747369.013.25](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198747369.013.25).
2. “135 | Talking Politics Guide to ... Deliberative Democracy.” *Talking Politics*. www.talkingpoliticspodcast.com, <https://www.talkingpoliticspodcast.com/blog/2019/135-talking-politics-guide-to-deliberative-democracy>.
3. “About Involve.” *Involve.Org.Uk*, 20 Apr. 2018. www.involve.org.uk, <https://www.involve.org.uk/about/about-involve>.
4. *The Irish Citizens’ Assembly Project*. <http://www.citizenassembly.ie/work/#irish-citizens-assembly-2016-2018>.