

**Outline for a brief discussion on Human Rights**  
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This lesson/framework is designed to be used in a club/activity setting to get students to critically think about what human rights are—their challenges and the challenges of ensuring them across the globe—before we engage in more structured future discussions centered around ethics and global perspectives. This lesson was inspired by Dr. Jessica Greenberg's lecture "Justice in the Balance: Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law in Europe"

**It is assumed students have had some exposure to the concept of human rights beforehand.**

**This is best suited for students in 9th-12th grades.**

**Time Frame:** 30-45 minutes

**Materials Needed:** computer, projector, prepared PowerPoint and/or space to record ideas discussed within the group meeting time, paper, writing utensils, multiple scenarios to be shared where human rights conflict with institutional policies (example: freedom of speech vs. hate speech)

**Action Plan:**

1. **Understanding Human Rights** (10-15 minutes)
  - a. Share the day's purpose: Discussion on Human rights.
  - b. Have students write down via paper or on a device their initial thoughts on human rights by asking them to list three rights they believe every human should have.
  - c. Project the UN's, Wikipedia's and the dictionary's definitions of human rights.
    - i. Share examples of human rights if needed
    - ii. Create a group definition of human rights (if time allows)
  
2. **Further Discussion—Exploring Paradoxes** (10-15 minutes)
  - a. Present students with scenarios / case studies where human rights might conflict with institutional policies or cultural norms (e.g., freedom of speech vs. hate speech laws).
    - i. Divide students into small groups. Assign each group a scenario to analyze and discuss:
      1. What human rights are at stake?
      2. Are these limitations justified, or do they create inequities?
      3. Additional thoughts
    - ii. Time to share out what groups discussed
    - iii. Ask students to think about other scenarios where institutional policies conflict with human rights and record for future discussions

**3. Wrap Up (5 minutes)**

- a. Students to Answer: What did they find most surprising or thought-provoking?
- b. Encourage students to check the GoogleClassroom to continue the conversation and/or post additional questions, resources or ideas they might have for the next meeting, or examples they find of human rights being discussed and/or violated as it happens in real time.