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What is democracy?

1

free elections
fundamental rights
rule of law
separation of powers
protection of minorities

- „How would you define democracy in one sentence?“
- „Why does democracy need rules and institutions?“
- „What would our school day look like without participation in decision-making?“

„For me, democracy means ...“
„An important feature is ...“

Fundamental rights and human dignity (Art. 1 GG)

2

Equality before the law
Personal freedom
Protection of privacy
Freedom of religion
Freedom of assembly

- „Which fundamental right is most important to you in everyday life?“
- „How do fundamental rights protect minorities?“
- „Which duties follow from rights?“

„The fundamental right ... is important because ...“
„An example in a school context is ...“

Freedom of expression and its limits

3

Freedom of expression
Facts vs opinion
Insults/hate speech prohibited
Protection of minors
School as a safe space
Culture of debate

- „What am I allowed to say — and what not?“
- „Where is the line between criticism and discrimination?“
- „How does it feel when your own boundaries are crossed?“

„I express my opinion in a way that ...“
„A legitimate limit is ...“

Media literacy and disinformation

4

Checking sources
Fact-checking
Image/video manipulation
Dealing with rumours
Being respectful online

- „How can you recognise a reliable source?“
- „How do filter bubbles influence our opinions?“
- „Which class rules help against misinformation?“

„My source is ...“
„I distinguish opinion from fact by ...“

Voluntary work
Clubs/initiatives
Local projects
Solidarity

- „Where are you involved, or where would you like to get involved?“
- „What motivates long-term engagement?“
- „How can school make engagement possible?“

„A project that fits is ...“
„We could win partners by ...“

Human rights worldwide
Different democratic traditions
Migration experiences
Learning from one another

- „What experiences with participation exist in your countries of origin?“
- „Which elements are important everywhere – and which vary culturally?“
- „What can we adopt for our school?“

„In my country I experienced that ...“
„We could adopt ...“

Your task as the MODERATOR

You take on the moderation at the table and guide the discussion.

First, ask everyone present to briefly introduce themselves.

Then agree on a topic to start the exchange.

Your task is to involve everyone and keep the conversation going by adding new prompts and follow-up questions.

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Your task as the NOTE-TAKER

You take the notes at the table. The template will help you.

You have space for notes, you can record the topics you discuss at the table and write down the key insights from your conversation.

Afterwards, you will give a short presentation.

You do not have to do this alone — feel free to ask someone from the group to support you.

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