

Civil Society and Voting: Definitions and Key Questions

Look up the meaning of these words and write your own definitions. Follow your interests and reputable sources to learn more about health and safety.

advocacy: the act or process of writing or speaking in favor of, or supporting, a cause

civic duty: the responsibilities of citizens

democracy: a system of government in which the power is held by the people, directly or by representation, typically through elections

gerrymandering: a practice of manipulating the boundaries of an electoral constituency in order to favor one party or class

vote: give or register an opinion in an election

voter suppression: a strategy used to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting

Key Questions

1. Have you participated in an election before? This could be a student council election, voting for team captain, or an informal election. Why did you decide to participate in this election? How did your vote impact the outcome?
2. Where do you see opportunities of growth related to voter participation in your community?
3. Why is it important to you that others vote in elections? What are some ways you can encourage others to vote?
4. How does your community address issues related to voting? Is voting accessible for everyone? Does your community host candidate forum nights?
5. What can you do to improve voting information and accessibility within your community?
6. What are ways that you maintain your personal knowledge about community or national issues?
7. What is your personal view about the responsibility of citizens to participate in community? In what way is it a right? A responsibility? A privilege?
8. What do you think should change and stay the same about your community? The country? The world?

