

Core Democratic Values

Core democratic values are the fundamental beliefs and constitutional principles of American Society which unite all Americans. These values are expressed in the *Declaration of Independence*, the *United States Constitution* and other significant documents, speeches, and writings of the nation. Below are some examples of core democratic values.

Fundamental Beliefs	Constitutional Principles
Life	The Rule of Law
Liberty	Separation of Powers
The Pursuit of Happiness	Representative Government
The Common Good	Checks and Balances
Justice	Individual Rights
Equality	Freedom of Religion
Diversity	Federalism
Truth	Civilian Control of the Military
Popular Sovereignty	
Patriotism	

Source: CIVITAS: A Framework for Civic Education, a collaborative project of the Center for Civic Education and the Council for the Advancement of Citizenship, *National Council for the Social Studies Bulletin No. 86*, 1991.

