

Station 5: Following the LAW

Directions: For each station, read the handout with your partner and then complete each of the steps below:

- DISCUSS: Is your station about something you SHOULD do or something you HAVE to do?
- DISCUSS: What *level of community* does your station involve? Are there several levels?
- WRITE: Summarize the most important parts of your station with a few sentences or a political cartoon/drawing.
- WRITE: Briefly describe how the sources after the reading connect to the information you read. What is the message of these sources?

Why do we have to follow rules? America is about FREEDOM, right?? The Purge is a really entertaining movie series. For 12 hours there's **no government**...a total **anarchy**. While it may be entertaining to watch, it probably wouldn't be very fun to live in a country where you were constantly fearing for your own life. Nobody **LIKES** rules, but if we want our **natural rights**, then we have to give up some of our perfect freedom to have a government with rules we follow in exchange for protection. This idea is called a **Social Contract**.

Later in the year, you'll also learn that Article 1, Section 8 of the **U.S. Constitution** says "The **Congress** shall have power to lay and **collect taxes**" and "**provide for the...general welfare**." If we want government to provide us with services we need like roads, schools, police, fire fighters, military for protection, etc... then we have to **pay taxes**. Otherwise, government doesn't have any money for the "**welfare**" of the people. For example, when you go to the store and buy something, you pay a "sales tax." In Florida, the state collects 6% of every dollar you spend at a store. Then, each county may add on more. In Seminole County, the sales tax is 7%. So, you pay 6 cents of every dollar to the Florida State government, and 1 cent of every dollar to the Seminole County government. EVERY PERSON in the COUNTRY must pay an INCOME tax, which is a tax collected from the money you make from your job. According to section 7201 of federal tax law: Tax evasion or tax fraud, is the purposeful illegal attempt of a taxpayer to avoid payment of a tax imposed by the federal government. Conviction of tax evasion may result in up to a \$100,000 fine and 5 years imprisonment.

So where do all of these laws come from? We'll learn that in a **representative democracy**, the people **vote** for (**elect**) government workers (**representatives**) to vote on these laws at the **national** level. Most **states** also have **direct democracy**, which allows the people to **directly vote and add laws to a state constitution**. We have representatives and laws at ALL levels in multiple communities we are a part of. The **RULE OF LAW** means EVERYONE has to follow the laws.

"Nothing is more certain than the necessity of government...the people must cede (give up) to [government] some of their natural rights in order to [provide] it with [enough] powers." - John Jay, one of the founding fathers, 1st Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, member of the Federalist political party



"The world no longer has a choice between force and law; if civilization is to survive, it must choose the rule of law." -Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander during World War II, U.S. President from 1953-1961.

